LOK SABHA DEBATES

(Part I – Questions and Answers)

VOLUME IV, 1954

(23rd Aug. – 24th Sept. 1954)

सत्यमेव जयते

SEVENTH SESSION

1954

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

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LOK SABHA

Monday, 20th September, 1954

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BUREAU

*1166. **Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of **Home Affairs** be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the increase in the expenditure of the Central Intelligence Bureau from Rs. 16·36 lakhs in 1948-49 to Rs. 120·22 lakhs in the current year;

(b) whether it is a fact that in every State there are units of the Central Intelligence Bureau and if so, what are their functions; and

(c) the number of persons employed in the Central Intelligence Bureau at present and the number that was employed in 1948-49?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) to (c). It is not in the public interest to disclose such information.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether it is not a fact that in the current year's budget the expenses for the Central Intelligence Bureau show an increase of 700 to 800 per cent of what it was in 1948-49?

Shri Datar: The increase is there and that increase is justified by necessities.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Could I know, how many of such officers—men and officers—in the Central Intelligence Bureau have been deputed to shadow Members of Parliament?

Shri Datar: Sir, I am afraid, I cannot answer this question. The insinuation is entirely wrong.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Sir, one question more.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order, we will go to the next question.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Sir, part (b) of the question has not been fully answered.

Mr. Speaker: He says he cannot disclose any information; there ends the matter.

Shri V. P. Nayar: No, Sir, I wanted to know whether the Special Police Establishment units and the Central Intelligence Bureau in various States are authorised to keep an eye over the local police and also to investigate in cases of grave crimes? May I also know whether it will be possible for the Home Minister to inform the Members of Parliament from various States about the addresses of such officers deputed to those States?

Shri Datar: I am afraid the hon. Member is making a confusion between the Intelligence Bureau and the Special Police Establishment. They are entirely different though they are attached to the Home Ministry.

Shri V. P. Nayar: You are confusing and not I.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order, we will go to the next question.

KANDLA CORRUPTION CASE

*1107. **Shri Dabhi**: Will the Minister of **Home Affairs** be pleased to refer to starred question No. 418 asked on the 26th February, 1954 and state:

(a) whether the investigation regarding false measurements of earth works in connection with the Kandla-Deesa Railway connection has now been completed; and

(b) if so, what is the result thereof?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) and (b). The investigation has not yet been completed. It is, however, nearing completion.

Shri Dabhi: May I know how many people are involved in this?

Shri Datar: I am not in a position at present to give the exact number; that will have to be prepared and given.

Shri Dabhi: May I know how much money Government had to pay as a result of these false measurements?

Shri Datar: As a result of what can be stated to be changes in the measurement books, about Rs. 14,000 more were paid.

NATIONAL INCOME COMMITTEE

*1108. **Shri S. N. Das**: Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recommendations made by the National Income Committee in its final report with regard to technical problems for improvement of data and institutional set-up for continued work in national income have been considered by Government; and

(b) if so, what decisions have been taken in these matters?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri M. C. Shah): (a) and (b). The recommendations of the National Income Committee, together with the comments of the concerned Ministries, were considered at a meeting of the Standing Committee of the Departmental Statisticians on the 28th August, 1954, and it has now been decided to set up a system of working parties to deal with the various technical problems regarding improvement of data. On the organisational side, the National Income Unit has been merged with the Central Statistical Organisation with effect from 1st June this year. With a view to promoting research work in national income, steps are being taken to ascertain the present position from the non-official institutions and Universities in the first instance.

Shri S. N. Das: In view of the recommendations made by this committee, may I know whether the strength of the National Income Unit is going to be increased and if so, to what extent?

Shri M. C. Shah: As I stated, the National Income Unit has been taken over by the Central Statistical Organisation and they will make recommendations which will be considered.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether any estimate as to the requirements of personnel for this purpose in future has been made, and if so, what is that estimate?

Shri M. C. Shah: We have not got any estimate so far.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether any efforts have been made for having agencies in such areas where no such statistical arrangements exist in different spheres of economic activities?

Shri M. C. Shah: We are awaiting the recommendations on that subject from the Central Statistical Organisation.

Shri T. S. A. Chettiar: The hon. Minister stated that they will get the co-operation of non-official institutions and Universities in this respect. May I know what sort of co-operation he expects and what is the help proposed to be given to those Universities and non-official institutions in this matter?

Shri M. C. Shah: That will be for this Organisation to decide. There will be Working Parties. As I have said the Working Parties will consist partly of the Ministries concerned, partly from the Central Statistical Organisation, there will be some Members of the Planning Commission and also from the Economic Affairs Department. They will address all those non-official institutions and Universities on the point of improving statistical data.

TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION SCHEME

*1109. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain Indian mine-managers have been sent abroad for higher training under the Technical Co-operation Scheme of the Colombo Plan;

(b) if so, how many and to which country; and

(c) to which States of India do they belong?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri A. C. Guha): (a) Yes.

(b) 55; to U.K., Australia and New Zealand.

(c) Bihar, Bombay, Delhi, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Madras, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether the mine managers who have been sent for training abroad under the Technical Co-operation Scheme all come from private mines, or some of them from Government mines also?

Shri A. C. Guha: I am not definite on that point—there must be some from private mines—I think most of them are from private mines

Kumari Annie Mascarene: May I know why such an officer trained under the Scheme is not sent to Travancore-Cochin State?

Shri A. C. Guha: I have no information on that.

Shri Thimmaiah: May I know whether they have been sent at their own cost or at the cost of Government?

Shri A. C. Guha: The host countries generally bear the costs.

Shri L. N. Mishra: May I know whether it is a fact that a large part of the fund for the Technical Co-operation Scheme of the Colombo Plan has been proving surplus and it is not being spent? May I know the reasons therefor?

Shri A. C. Guha: If the hon. Member refers to the Technical Co-operation Scheme fund as such I think I shall require notice.

NATIONAL MUSEUM

*1110. **Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to refer to the reply to starred question No. 2296 asked on the 6th May, 1954 and state:

(a) whether the 'Expert Committee' appointed to prepare a plan of the building for the National Museum at New Delhi has since submitted its report; and

(b) what would be the estimated cost of the building?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das): (a) Not yet, Sir.

(b) Not yet finalised.

Shri Krishnacharya Joshi: May I know when the plan will be finalised?

Dr. M. M. Das: The plan is expected to be finalised very soon.

Shri Krishnacharya Joshi: May I know, what is the provision made in the Budget this year for this work?

Dr. M. M. Das: In this year's Budget we have made a provision of Rs. 3,70,400.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether some of the statues and portraits of former rulers of India are intended to be placed in this particular museum, and whether any State Government—I mean the Madras State Government—

has asked the Education Ministry to take away these statues and portraits from Madras to this museum?

Dr. M. M. Das: Sir, the question before the House relates to the construction of building only. Next week, I think, I have got a question about the supplementary made by the hon. Member.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: I want to know what shall be the main features of this museum and what are the financial implications?

Dr. M. M. Das: The financial implication is that the Gawar Committee estimated more than Rs. 1 crore for the construction of the building. Our present estimate is about Rs. 91 lakhs and the museum will now accommodate specimens of Arts, Anthropology and Archaeology.

FERRO-MANGANESE

*1112. **Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** Will the Minister of **Natural Resources and Scientific Research** be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Committee has been set up by Government to examine and advise private sector to promote and establish the ferro-manganese industry;

(b) whether the Committee has submitted any report; and

(c) if so, what are its recommendations?

The Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). No, Sir, the report is awaited.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: May I know whether any estimate of the amount that will be spent during the remaining period of the First Five Year Plan and the Second Five Year Plan has been prepared by the Ministry for this industry?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: No, Sir; the report of the Committee is awaited and as soon as Government have given their consideration on the recommendations we shall try to implement them irrespective of the fact whether it is completed in the First or Second Five Year Plan.

Shri Matthen: May I know what is the present position of the proposal made for the manufacture of ferro-manganese made by Vonmaltzan who died in the recent Nagpur aircrash? Is it being followed by the Government?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I could not exactly follow the question, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: He wants to know what steps have been taken for the manufacture of ferro-manganese. There was a scheme in Madhya Pradesh; he wants to know whether it is being followed up.

Shri K. D. Malviya: This and various other schemes of ferro-manganese are being considered by the Government in the Commerce and Industry Ministry.

सरकारी प्रशासनीय यंत्र का पुनसंगठन

*१११४. **श्री एम० एल० द्विवेदी :** क्या गृह-कार्य मंत्री, ३० अप्रैल, १९५४ को गृह-कार्य उपमंत्री द्वारा प्रशासनीय व्यवस्था के सुधार के बारे में गैर सरकारी संकल्प पर वाद-विवाद के समय सभा में दिये गये वक्तव्य के सम्बन्ध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे :

(क) क्या सेवा नियमों में आवश्यक संशोधन किये गये हैं ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या उन संशोधित नियमों की एक प्रति सभा-पटल पर रखी जायगी ; और

(ग) यदि भाग (क) का उत्तर नकारात्मक हो तो इस कार्य में विलम्ब के क्या कारण हैं और वह कब तक पूरा हो जायेगा ?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) to (c). 15

sets of rules applicable to the All India Services have been issued and placed on the Table of the House. Six sets of rules are still under consideration and are expected to be issued shortly. The revision of the Conduct Rules applicable to the Central Services on the lines of those recently been promulgated for the All India Services and the revision of Central Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules is in hand.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: What, in the opinion of the Minister, will be the effect of these new rules?

Shri Datar: These new rules will work for efficiency and bring about, also, a greater measure of integrity.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: May I know whether, in the reorganisation of the administrative machinery, any other important changes have been introduced by the Minister in addition to these new rules?

Shri Datar: As the House is aware, the Government have also introduced what is known as the Organisation and Methods Division. That Division has already started working, and it is trying to find out the reasons for procrastination or delay in various cases, and the matters are looked into.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: May I know whether the new scheme is giving some periodical reports of the checks made by this new Division and, if so what is the result and, what is the tightening up of the administrative machinery as a result of that?

Mr. Speaker: I think he need answer only one question. I see a tendency to combine a number of questions.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: The first may be answered.

Shri Datar: So far as results are concerned it is rather premature at this stage to point out the exact results. But I might inform the House that on the whole we are getting very good material on the basis of which we can avoid delays.

ENGLISH IN THE ARMED FORCES

*1122. **Shri Gidwani:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state what is the policy of Government in regard to the position of English in the Army and of the medium of instruction in the Defence Academy in Poona?

The Minister of Defence Organisation (Shri Tyagi): The policy of the Government is that within a period of fifteen years from the commencement of the Constitution, English should be replaced by Hindi. Till then English may have to be the medium of instruction at the National Defence Academy which is expected to move to Khadakvasla by the beginning of 1955.

Shri Gidwani: May I know whether the change will be made after fifteen years or whether some start will be made earlier?

شکشا و پراکرنک سنسادھن تتھا

ویگیانک گویشنا ملتری (مولانا آزاد) : میں اِس بارے میں کہدوں گورنمنٹ کی پالیسی یہ ہے کہ دس برس کے بعد وہ ہندی میں کام شروع کر دیگی لیکن اس کے ساتھ پندھرویں برس تک انگریزی بھی جاری رہے گی -

[**The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad):** In this connection the policy of the Government is to have Hindi as the medium of instruction after ten years, but English will continue to be there till the fifteenth year.]

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether the particular words or terminology in Hindi for those now used in the Army are being discovered by the scholars, so that they may be used for the training of the Military personnel?

Shri Tyagi: Yes, Sir.

Shri T. N. Singh: May I know whether it is proposed to start instruction in the medium of Hindi language only at the end of ten years or any begin-

ning will be made right now in certain classes?

Shri Tyagi: There are quite a large number of subjects in the Army in which the medium of instruction is already Hindi. But in highly technical subjects which are scientifically very intricate and require a lot of scientific phraseology, there of course, Hindi could not be taken up.

Shri G. P. Sinha: May I know how many books necessary for Army training have been translated in Hindi?

Shri Tyagi: I have no information about that.

NATIONAL LIBRARY

*1124. **Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to state whether there are any rules prescribed for the recruitment and promotion of staff at the National Library at Calcutta?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das): Draft rules have been framed and these are being finalized in consultation with the Ministry of Home Affairs and Union Public Service Commission. In the meantime the draft rules are being followed.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Has it come to the notice of Government that in the matter of appointments and promotions, the Public Service Commission regulations are often ignored and persons even without the qualifications advertised for are appointed by the Librarian?

Dr. M. M. Das: As I said, the draft rules have not yet been finalized. They are to be finalized in consultation with the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Union Public Service Commission.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Pending the finalization of the draft rules, is Government aware that there is considerable dissatisfaction among the present members of the staff on account of the allegedly discriminatory practices by the Librarian?

Dr. M. M. Das: Government has no knowledge about the dissatisfaction of the staff. But I must submit for the satisfaction of the hon. Member that during the last few years we have appointed only one Class I officer, and the apopintment has been made through the Union Public Service Commission. So far as Class II officers are concerned, seven have been appointed, two permanently through the Union Public Service Commission, and five temporarily by promotion. Promotion has been given to the employees of the Department, and those employees who have got these temporary promotions are the seniormost men in the Department. So far as Class III appointments are concerned they are made by the Council of the Library where there are members nominated by the Calcutta University, the West Bengal Government and the Central Government.

LINGUISTIC SURVEY

*1125. **Shri Sanganna:** Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken for a new linguistic survey of India in pursuance of the recommendations made by the Standing Committee appointed in May 1953 by the Conference of Linguists and Educationists; and

(b) if so, what is the progress in this regard?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das): (a) and (b). A definite scheme is still awaited.

Shri Sanganna: May I know the various recommendations made by the Standing Committee appointed by the Conference of Linguists and Educationists?

Dr. M. M. Das: The Conference of Linguists and Educationists was a non-official Conference, and the Committee was also non-official. Linguistic survey was one of the recommendations concerning the Ministry of Education. The recommendation is that a new

linguistic survey of India should be undertaken on all-India level, the direction and organisation of which should preferably be in the hands of a non-official academic expert committee preferably centred in the Deccan College.

Shri Sanganna: May I know the agency through which the linguistic survey is taken?

Dr. M. M. Das: We have not yet received any complete concrete scheme from the Deccan College Post-graduate Research Institute.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether Government had asked for any scheme or whether it depends upon the organisation to give any scheme?

Dr. M. M. Das: The approach was made on behalf of that organisation first. So we have asked that organisation to send to us a concrete, well thought-out plan.

Sardar A. S. Saigal: What is meant by linguistic survey, and how many such surveys have been made in the past?

Dr. M. M. Das: My knowledge about this technical subject is in no way better than that of the hon. Member. But I understand by linguistic survey we mean the study of the relation between different languages with regard to their origin, their construction, their grammar, the area in which the language is spoken and the people, the particular communities which speak that language. There had not been many surveys made. Only one was made by a European scholar about fifty years back.

SCOUT ORGANISATION

***1126. Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether any amount has been specifically set apart for the development of the Scout Organisation in India;

(b) whether any State-wise contribution to the Scout Organisation is being made; and

(c) whether the Scout Organisation has been utilised in any manner for the implementation of the Five Year Plan?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das): (a) No.

(b) No.

(c) It is reported that the scout organisation has been utilised in rendering service in Festivals, Relief Camps and National Programmes as provided in the Five Year Plan.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: The N.C.C. was utilised for clearing of certain canals and construction of roads. Has any such assignment been given to the scout organisation anywhere in India?

Dr. M. M. Das: The scout organisation is a non-official organisation, and these details are not with me at present.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Have representations been made that the scout organisation is not able to reach up to its full utility for want of funds?

Dr. M. M. Das: This year a request has been made by the Bharat Scouts and Guides for a grant-in-aid of Rs. 75,000. In addition, a special grant of Rs. 60,000 is requested for the establishment of an all-India training centre for organising advanced training camps of an all-India character for Scouts and Guides officers.

Sardar A. S. Saigal: Is it a fact that there are different Scout organisations in the country and may I know what amount of grant was paid to them last year?

Dr. M. M. Das: In the year 1949-50, there were three different scout organisations. Fortunately for us, they have merged together to form one organisation, namely the Bharat Scouts and Guides. During 1953-54, we gave this organisation a grant of Rs. 32,500.

Ex-EMPLOYEES OF CIVIL SUPPLIES DEPARTMENTS

*1129. **Shri I. Eacharan:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have agreed to absorb the retrenched staff of the Civil Supplies Departments of the States; and

(b) if so, the percentage of the discharged *ex*-employees who are likely to be absorbed?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) and (b). Government have agreed to accord employment assistance to the retrenched staff of the Civil Supplies Departments of the State Governments on a priority basis. For this purpose they have been accorded the same priority as the retrenched Central Government employees other than those who are declared surplus on the recommendation of the Economy Unit. It is not possible to say how many or what proportion of the discharged employees would actually be absorbed as a result of this assistance.

Shri I. Eacharan: May I know what are the minimum conditions to be satisfied for recruitment, and the Departments in which they are likely to be taken in?

Shri Datar: There are no minimum conditions at all. They would be given posts more or less equal or analogous to those that they held in the State Government.

Diwan Raghavendra Rao: May I know if the Government propose to give exemption in respect of age, etc. in the case of these employees?

Shri Datar: I am not sure whether exemption can be given except when it has already been granted by the State.

CENTRAL BUILDING RESEARCH INSTITUTE, ROORKEE

*1131. **Diwan Raghavendra Rao:** Will the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recently constructed building of the Central Building Research Institute at Roorkee has been defaced and reconstructed on the basis of a new design; and

(b) the cost of the originally constructed building and the additional expenditure for changing it to the new design?

The Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) The recently constructed building of the Central Building Research Institute at Roorkee has not been defaced. The Council Architects have, however, recently reported that the Director of the Laboratory had removed the corrugated decorative tile wall on one side of the building. No new structure has been put up in place of the decorative wall.

(b) The cost of the building was Rs. 8,67,000. In view of the position stated at (a) above the question of additional expenditure on reconstruction does not arise.

Diwan Raghavendra Rao: May I know if the original building was designed by a qualified architect, and if a change has been brought about, why and by whom it has been brought about, and if the person who has brought about the change is a qualified architect and designer?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: The building was designed by a qualified architect of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. The Director of the Building Research Institute was responsible for removing this corrugated decorative brick wall. But, no action seems to be necessary now, because it was not considered necessary or worthwhile.

Diwan Raghavendra Rao: May I know if the originally estimated cost of this building was Rs. 600,000 and the actual cost is Rs. 800,000?

Shri K. D Malaviya: The latter information is given just now. I should like to have notice to answer the first part.

Diwan Raghavendra Rao: May I know if the reservoir in this building

was originally to cost Rs. 25,000 and because of the whim of the Director, it has cost Rs. 50,000?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I have no such information.

CROSSWORD PUZZLES

*1134. **Shri Nageshwar Prasad Sinha:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Madras have requested the Government of India to ban the system of "Crossword or Squareword" puzzles and competitions by bringing in a suitable legislation;

(b) if so, the steps that have been taken to ban them; and

(c) whether any other State has also made a similar suggestion?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) and (c). A proposal to remedy the evil of Crossword puzzles and similar prize competitions was circulated to the State Governments for their views, in response to which the Government of Madras have expressed their views; some other State Governments have also sent in their opinions.

(b) Question of promoting suitable legislation is under consideration.

Shri Nageshwar Prasad Sinha: May I know in which of the States this system has been banned already?

Shri Datar: I am not sure whether it has been banned. It has been controlled in certain States.

Shri Nageshwar Prasad Sinha: May I ask the hon. Minister how long it will take for the Government of India to get out of these puzzles and bring a suitable legislation?

Shri Datar: It will not take long because we have now got the full views of the State Governments. The question before the Government is whether to effect a complete ban or to introduce control or licensing system. Government are considering which course to follow.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: May I know whether they provide any source of income also, and if so, what is the income obtained?

Shri Datar: Government are not looking at it from the point of view of a source of income. They are looking at it from an ethical point of view.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: I wanted to know whether it provided a source of income.

Shri Datar: I think it does so far as certain State Governments are concerned.

Shri Matthen: May I know if the hon. Minister is aware of the exploitation done by the so-called respectable newspapers or people by means of these crossword puzzles?

Shri Datar: Government are fully aware and that is the reason why Central legislation is being considered.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS MILITARY LANDS

*1136. **Shri K. C. Sodhia:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether a list of all surplus military lands that are shortly to be disposed of by sale has been drawn up and published or is proposed to be published?

The Minister of Defence Organisation (Shri Tyagi): A list of all surplus military camping grounds has been drawn up but has not been published nor is it proposed to publish it as it is a very long list. Details of the camping grounds can however be obtained from the Office of the Director, Military Lands and Cantonments, on application.

Shri K. C. Sodhia: What is the machinery for effecting the sales?

Shri Tyagi: These lands have been offered in the first instance to the various Ministries of the Central Government. After that, they will be offered to the State Governments, and

then to the local boards, municipal boards and district boards, and then to the educational or charitable institutions if there are any. Failing all this, preference will be given to co-operative societies of ex-soldiers and after that, the lands will be offered to the public.

Shri K. C. Sodhia: Will the hospitals and educational institutions get them at the full value or at concessional value?

Shri Tyagi: As far as the transfer of these lands to the particular bodies that I have mentioned is concerned, they will have them at the recognised rates of the revenue records of the particular Government.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know how much land, it is proposed, that the Rehabilitation Ministry will take over and whether it has been offered to them?

Shri Tyagi: It will be readily offered to them. The details of these camping grounds have been circularised among all the Ministries and the State Governments. As and when we receive demands, they will be transferred immediately

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Mr. Speaker: We will go to the next question. Shri R. S. Lal: absent. Shri K. P. Tripathi.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: 1137.

Mr. Speaker: At the end.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: 1139.

REHABILITATION OF FLOOD VICTIMS

***1139. Shri K. P. Tripathi:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Assam have asked for the release of the surplus land in Sukreting aerodrome in Assam for the rehabilitation of flood victims; and

(b) if so, whether any step has been taken in that regard?

...The Minister of Defence Organisation (Shri Tyagi): (a) Yes.

(b) The land has already been placed at the disposal of the State Government for this purpose on a temporary basis for a period of two months, free of charge. The proposal of permanently transferring the area to the State Government, free of cost, is under consideration.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: May I know if this whole area or part of it was transferred to a big businessman, free of charge?

Shri Tyagi: I am sorry I have not got the details of the previous transfers. It is in my knowledge that some land was transferred to a private party long ago.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: May I know if it was transferred with the knowledge of the hon. Minister or his Department or it was done by some officers down below?

Shri Tyagi: I am afraid it was transferred quite a few years ago.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: By some officer or with the knowledge of the Government?

Shri Tyagi: As I have pleaded, I have no definite information.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether the hon. Defence Minister is aware of the fact that in all cases of selling the grounds and other things, invariably these lands are sold to other parties and not to the original owners?

Shri Tyagi: There is no question of selling to one particular party. Uptill now the system has been that whenever any land was declared surplus, it was put to public auction. As far as the private transactions were concerned, they were approved by the Defence Ministry first, and then by the Finance Ministry, then only they were completed.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know why these lands are not given to the original owners?

Mr. Speaker: It is no use pursuing the question.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: It is a very important question, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Every question is important. If I am to depend on the opinion of an hon. Member regarding importance of his question, I think that I may put only one question and carry on for one hour.

Next Question.

EDUCATION OF CHILDREN

***1140. Shri Dholakia:** Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any policy regarding the education of children between three and six years of age;

(b) if so, the main aspects of the policy formulated; and

(c) the amount of expenditure proposed to be spent over its implementation?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das): (a) No.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government to send a team of officers or educationists to study the experiments going on in this regard in other countries?

Dr. M. M. Das: So far as pre-primary education is concerned, no such scheme is there, so far as I know.

Shri Dholakia: May I know whether Government intend to appoint a Commission just as they have appointed a Commission regarding secondary education?

Dr. M. M. Das: I must submit to the hon. Member that pre-primary education is the responsibility of the State Governments, and so far as the Central Government is concerned, the highest priority has been given to universal primary education.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether in any institute under the control of the Central Government any experiment in this regard is being made?

شکشا و پراکرتک سنسادھن تتھا ویگیانک کویھلا منتری (مولانا آزاد)- اس بارے میں ایکسپیریمنٹ ہو رہا ہے -

[**The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad):** The experiment is going on in this connection.]

Shri S. N. Das: Regarding the education of these children between three and six years of age.

مولانا آزاد - ڈائریکٹ سینٹرل گورنمنٹ کے ہاتھ میں کوئی انسٹی ٹیوشن نہیں ہے -

[**Maulana Azad:** There is no institution under direct control of the Central Government.]

EMERGENCY COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

***1141. Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** Will the Minister of **Defence** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the Emergency Commissioned Officers recruited during World War II who have since been absorbed in the Regular Armed Forces;

(b) the number of those who have been resettled in Reserved Civil Posts; and

(c) whether any of them were given gratuity and other benefits?

The Minister of Defence Organisation (Shri Tyagi): (a) 3,804.

(b) This information is not readily available and is being collected.

(c) Yes, all Emergency Commissioned Officers were granted war gratuity and other benefits according to Release regulations.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know if their service is counted from the time they had left or from

the time when they had been in the war service?

Shri Tyagi: I do not follow the hon. Member.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Regarding the period, is it going to be from the time they were given these civil posts or posts in the regular Armed Forces, or is the period when they were actually serving in the fighting forces is also taken into consideration?

Shri Tyagi: I am sorry, I have not got this information ready in my hand just now. The hon. Member is anxious to know as to whether, when they are re-employed in civil service, their military service is counted or not I am sorry I have no information.

INTER-STATE POLICE WIRELESS SYSTEM

*1142. **Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** Will the Minister of **Home Affairs** be pleased to state whether the Inter-State Police Wireless System has been extended to Travancore-Cochin, Imphal and Chandigarh?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): No.

Shri Krishnacharya Joshi: May I know whether this system exists in all the States of the Indian Union?

Shri Datar: It exists in most of the States in the Indian Union, and so far as the question is concerned, it will be introduced in Travancore-Cochin, Imphal and Chandigarh in the course of the next six months.

Shri Krishnacharya Joshi: May I know whether all the expenditure is borne by the Central Government, or States also contribute?

Shri Datar: I believe it is the Central Government so far as this is concerned.

CENTRAL SECRETARIAT SERVICE

*1143. **Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** Will the Minister of **Home Affairs** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to enlist State Civil Service Officers for appointment to grade I of the Central Secretariat Service; and

(b) if so, what will be the percentage of the State Civil Officers to be so recruited?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) and (b). It has been decided in consultation with the State Governments to obtain a certain number of State Civil Service Officers not exceeding 40 for the present on deputation to hold posts of Under Secretary and equivalent posts at the Centre on a tenure basis. There is no question of such officers being appointed or recruited to the Central Secretariat Service itself.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: May I know the number of officers from each of the States that have been recruited?

Shri Datar: It is not fixed on a regional basis, but we shall call for nominations or recommendations from all the States, and we shall prefer the most suitable amongst them.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: May I know what is the criterion of suitability that has been fixed by the Central Government for this?

Shri Datar: The criterion that has been fixed is that these officers must have worked at least for twelve years in the States; they must have experience at the district level, as also experience at the secretariat level.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: As in the I.A.S. married women are made ineligible for applying for service, is the same thing applying to the State Civil Service?

Shri Datar: I might assure the hon Member that, subject to correction, they can come in.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi *rose*—

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

MANIPURI STUDENTS

*1145. **Shri Rishang Keishing:** Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any arrangements to send abroad qualified Manipuri students every year for higher education; and

(b) if so, where and for what courses they have been sent abroad in the past?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri Rishang Keishing: May I know if it is not a fact that the Central Government has got a special scholarship scheme for the study of students from Part C States in foreign countries, and if it is so, the reason why so far not a single Manipuri has been selected?

Dr. M. M. Das: Unfortunately, out of the 49 applications that we have received for this year from candidates from Parts C and D States for the scholarship mentioned by the hon. Member, not a single application has come from Manipur State.

Shri Rishang Keishing: May I also enquire if Government have cared to enquire as to why not a single application has come from Manipur while there are many qualified persons and there are also many people anxious to go abroad for study?

Dr. M. M. Das: Most probably they do not care for this scholarship.

THE COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR-GENERAL

*1146. **Shri K. C. Sodhia:** Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to refer to the reply to starred question No. 1367 asked on the 29th March, 1954 and state whether Government are in a position to say when the Bill regulating the powers and duties of the Comptroller and Auditor-General as contemplated under Article 149 of the Constitution will be brought forward?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri M. C. Shah): The matter is under consideration in consultation with the Comptroller and Auditor-General, but it is not possible to indicate when legislation will be undertaken.

Shri K. C. Sodhia: Has not the Comptroller and Auditor-General himself pressed for such legislation?

Shri M. C. Shah: He is pressing for separating these two functions, and already he has appointed an officer and the Finance Ministry has also appointed a senior official to look into the matter and to work out those things.

Shri S. N. Das: In view of the fact that the same kind of answer is being given from time to time with regard to this question, may I know whether the Government is serious enough to consider this matter promptly?

Shri M. C. Shah: The Government is serious, Sir.

Shri Velayudhan: In view of the fact that the legislation is delayed so long, is not the Government experiencing certain great difficulties because of the lack of or absence of legislation on this particular important matter?

Shri M. C. Shah: This is a very complicated matter which requires very serious consideration, and all those things will have to be gone through. There are major changes to be worked out and those things have to be gone through. So, the Government is serious, but it takes time.

केन्द्रीय राज्य छात्रवृत्ति योजना

*११४७. **श्री नवल प्रभाकर :** क्या **शिक्षा** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) केन्द्रीय राज्य छात्रवृत्ति योजना के अधीन भाग 'ग' तथा भाग 'घ' राज्यों

से १९५४-५५ में छात्रवृत्ति प्राप्त करने के लिये कितने प्रार्थना पत्र प्राप्त हुये ; और

(ख) यह छात्रवृत्ति किस विषय के निमित्त दी गई है ?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das): (a) Forty-nine.

(b) Three scholarships have been granted to scholars who will study:

(i) Theoretical Phyhics—Field Theory and Nuclear Forces;

(ii) Meson Theory and Nuclear Forces;

(iii) Geophysics.

श्री नवल प्रभाकर : क्या मैं जान सकता हूं कि प्रति राज्यवार कितने प्रार्थना पत्र आये और उनमें से अनुसूचित जातियों और आदिम जातियों के छात्रों के कितने प्रार्थनापत्र हैं ?

Dr. M. M. Das: These scholarships were reserved for candidates of Parts C and D States. No separate reservation was made within this reservation for Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes.

श्री नवल प्रभाकर : मेरा प्रश्न यह था कि पार्ट सी० और पार्ट डी० स्टेट्स जो हैं उनमें से अलग अलग हर स्टेट की कितनी एप्लीकेशन्स आई और उनमें से शिड्यूल्ड कास्ट की कितनी थीं ?

Dr. M. M. Das: Applications received were: Delhi 17, Cutch 5, Himachal Pradesh 3, Tripura 2, Vindhya Pradesh 7, Coorg 2, Ajmer 12, Andaman and Nicobar Islands 1. As the scholarships were to be awarded on merit, no separate census or account was taken of scholars belonging to Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes.

श्री नवल प्रभाकर : क्या मैं जान सकता हूं कि पार्ट सी और पार्ट डी० स्टेट्स के अन्दर लोगों को जानकारी देने के लिए कोई विज्ञापन वगैरह किया जाता है ?

Dr. M. M. Das: All the scholarships are advertised.

Shri Radha Raman: What is the total amount sanctioned for these scholarships and what is the amount in each case?

Dr. M. M. Das: The scholarships under this scheme are tenable for a maximum period of three years, and their value is $1500 *per annum* in the U.S.A., and £ 360 to £400 *per annum* in the United Kingdom.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know whether these scholarships are granted directly by the Central Government or by any foundations or institutions abroad?

Dr. M. M. Das: They are given directly by the Central Government.

JUDICIARY IN MANIPUR

***1149. Shri Rishang Keishing:** Will the Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prior to the integration of the State of Manipur the "Hill Bench" composed of three judges was functioning as the highest court for the hill people of Manipur but the same was abolished after the integration of the State;

(b) if so, the reasons for its abolition;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Chief Commissioner is now the highest judicial authority for the hill people of Manipur; and

(d) the authority or court outside Manipur to whom appeals can be preferred by the hill people of Manipur against the orders of the Chief Commissioner?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) The "Hill Bench" was not the highest court for the hill people before integration. This court was, however, abolished after integration.

(b) After integration, the Chief Court constituted under the Manipur

State Courts Act, 1947, was substituted by the Court of the Judicial Commissioner with a single judge and consequently a difficulty arose regarding the continuance of the "Hill Bench" as constituted by Section 26 of the Manipur State Hill Peoples (Administration) Regulation, 1947. In order to resolve this difficulty the "Hill Bench" was abolished and its powers were directed to be exercised by the Deputy Commissioner.

(c) Yes.

(d) Does not arise.

U. K. TAX RELIEF IN INCOME-TAX

*1150. **Shri K. C. Sodhia:** Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of refund or rebate granted under U. K. Tax Relief in Income-tax and Super-tax under Section 49 of the Indian Income-tax Act during 1953-54;

(b) the total number of such assessees; and

(c) the number of Indians among them?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri M. C. Shah): (a) Section 49 of the Income-tax Act was deleted in 1948 and relief is now being granted under section 49D of the Act. The amount of such relief granted in 1953-54 was:—

Income-tax	Super-tax
Rs. 3,06,76,644	Rs. 8,48,077

(b) 588.

(c) This information is not readily available.

Shri K. C. Sodhia: How many of these assessees to whom tax has been remitted are companies registered in the United Kingdom and operating in India?

Shri M. C. Shah: Tax is not remitted. This relief was given under the double taxation relief under section 49 (D) of the Indian Income-tax Act. As regards the number asked for, I have not got the break-up. As I stated earlier in reply to part (c) of the question, that information is not available.

Shri K. C. Sodhia: Is any reciprocal relief available for Indian companies in the United Kingdom?

Shri M. C. Shah: There is no agreement in operation at present, but as we give hundred per cent. relief from 1952-53, the United Kingdom also gives hundred per cent. relief from 1953.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: May I know how many Indian companies have benefited from the relief given by the United Kingdom, and whether Government have any estimate of the number of United Kingdom companies that have benefited from the relief given by us?

Shri M. C. Shah: As I said earlier, I have not got that break-up. So far as the relief granted by us is concerned, it was in 588 cases. As regards the number of Indian companies that have obtained relief from the United Kingdom, that information cannot be available to us.

Mr. Speaker: Now, let us take up the other questions. Question No. 1138.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: Question No. 1137.

Mr. Speaker: Has the hon. Member got the authority?

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: It is my question. Where is the need for any authority?

Mr. Speaker: What is the number of the question?

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: No. 1137.

Mr. Speaker: I thought the hon. Member was referring to Question No. 1138. I am very sorry.

मध्य भारत में सीमा शुल्क

*११३७. श्री भागवत झा आजाद : क्या राज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या मध्य भारत सरकार ने केन्द्रीय सरकार से यह प्रार्थना की है कि सीमा-शुल्क एकत्रित करने का उनका अधिकार एक वर्ष के लिये और बढ़ा दिया जाये ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार ने इस प्रार्थना को स्वीकार कर लिया है ; और

(ग) मध्य भारत सरकार इस अधिकार का कब तक उपयोग करेगी ?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) to (c). The subject has been under discussion with the Madhya Bharat Government but the Government of India have not yet received the final proposals of the State Government.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: May I know what would be the approximate amount of the loss sustained by the Central Exchequer up-till now, as a result of this concession?

Shri Datar: That itself is a question which has to be considered. The State Government are anxious that we bear the whole responsibility for the loss, while we are enxious that they bear as large a share as possible. Therefore, the question is under consideration. Their Finance Secretary and Finance Minister were here last month, and certain proposals were made to them by the Government of India, and they have promised to send back definite proposals in the light of the discussions here.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: If this concession had not been extended by one more year, what is the approximate amount which would have come to the Central Exchequer as a result of this duty?

Shri Datar: I have not got that exact amount here. But as the question is under discussion, it would be premature to find out what would be the Central loss.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: What is the reason adduced by the Madhya Bharat Government for the extension of this privilege?

Shri Datar: It is not a question of extension. The loss to the State Government by the abolition of these inter-State transit duties, both import and export, would be considerable. Formerly, their income was about Rs. 2 crores. Subsequently, it came down to about Rs. 1 crore and odd. If these duties are to be abolished, then there would be a great loss to the Madhya Bharat Government. Therefore, they want time to consider as to the extent to which they can reimburse themselves from other sources, and also get some grant from the Centre.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: Has the attention of Government been drawn to a Press report that appeared today, to the effect that a Madhya Bharat Minister in reply to a question informed the reporters that they are going to abolish these customs duties in April next?

Shri Datar: It is a very happy piece of news. I hope they will be able to abolish them.

Shri R. S. Tiwari: Will you please allow Question No. 1135?

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: In public interest.

Mr. Speaker: I am going to the next question that is to be taken up.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: There are still fifteen minutes more for the Question Hour to be over.

Mr. Speaker: Before this, I find Question No. 1127 by Babu Ramnarayan Singh. It seems that the hon. Member does not want to put his question?

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: No. I was late only by a minute or two.

Mr. Speaker: As the hon. Member did not get up for making a request that his question should be called, I thought he did not want to put the question.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: I was waiting for you to call me.

Mr. Speaker: I want to make one position clear. When I called on Question No. 1138, I missed Question No. 1137 altogether. When the hon. Member Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad got up, I was under the misapprehension that he was going to put Question No. 1138. I wish he had drawn my attention then and there.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: I said Question No. 1137. Probably, you misheard it.

Mr. Speaker: I am very sorry for the mistake committed.

YOGA SYSTEM

*1127. **Babu Ramnarayan Singh:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a newspaper report in a local daily on the 22nd August, 1954 that the Government of U.S.S.R. have decided to introduce the *yoga* system of physical exercises in all their educational institutions; and

(b) if so, whether there have been any correspondence and consultations between the Governments of India and U.S.S.R. in this connection?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) No.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad *rose*—

Mr. Speaker: Our convention is that the Member who puts the question must be given the first chance.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: He did not get up. Therefore, I got up.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: May I know whether other countries like the U.S.A. also are interested in this question?

Dr. M. M. Das: It is difficult for me to commit, but as there are several Ramakrishna Mission Ashrams and Vedantic Societies working in America, it may be possible that some American citizens are interested in this *yoga* system.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: May I know whether our Government are fully aware of the efficacy of this yoga system of physical culture, and if so, whether they are really determined to do something for the good of the people by this way?

Dr. M. M. Das: Our Government are fully conscious about the great efficacy of this system. But I request the hon. Member to remember that so far as the Central Government are concerned, they have very little function, in regard to the educational institutions in the States. They can give advice, they can give grants, and they can make requests to the States about different educational matters and schemes, but so far as the machinery for implementation of those requests or advice is concerned, it is in the hands of the State Governments.

Several Hon. Members *rose*—

Mr. Speaker: Let us go to the next question.

उपराज्यपालों तथा चीफ कमिश्नरों की शक्तियां

*११३५. **श्री आर० एस० तिवारी :** क्या राज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) उपराज्यपालों तथा चीफ कमिश्नरों की शक्तियों में क्या अन्तर है ;

(ख) क्या उपराज्यपाल लोकप्रिय सरकारों के प्रशासन सम्बन्धी कार्यों में हस्तक्षेप कर सकते हैं : और

(ग) क्या सरकार के पास ऐसी सूचनायें आई हैं कि लोक प्रिय सरकारों के प्रशासन सम्बन्धी कार्यों में हस्तक्षेप किया जाता है ?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) There is no difference between the powers of a Lieutenant-Governor and a Chief Commissioner of a State specified in the first column of the Third Schedule to the Government of Part C States Act, 1951.

(b) The functions of the Lieutenant-Governor and his relations with his Council of Ministers are laid down in the Government of Part C States Act, 1951, and in the Rules of Business framed by the President under section 38 of that Act.

(c) No.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: May I know whether Government have enquired into the working of the Government of Part C States Act in different States, and whether the Lieutenant-Governors are interfering with the powers of the Cabinets?

Shri Datar: Government have received no complaints regarding alleged interference by the Lieutenant-Governors with the work of the particular State Governments.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: Is it not a fact that in Vindhya Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh even Cabinet meetings cannot be held without the Lieutenant-Governor?

Shri Datar: I am afraid that that information is not correct.

Shri K. K. Basu: May I know whether the Chief Commissioners of States which have legislatures and of States which have no legislatures have the same powers?

Shri Datar: There must be some limitations of powers so far as the Chief Commissioners with the legislative functions are concerned because there they have to deal with the Ministries. In the others where there are no legislatures or Ministries, naturally their powers are wider.

IMPHAL TREASURY OFFICER

*1121. **Shri Rishang Keishing:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Treasury Officer, Imphal, has constructed some buildings on a Government land just in the heart of the town without permission from the Government for the purpose of letting them out; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri A. C. Guha): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter is under the active consideration of the Manipur Government.

Shri Rishang Keishing: Are Government aware that many government officers in Manipur have built residential quarters at Imphal and rented them at high rates, while they are living in low-paid government quarters?

Shri A. C. Guha: In the answer I have already indicated that there have been some irregular constructions. As to how many such irregular constructions there are, I have no figure with me. But anyhow, Government are looking into the matter.

Shri Radha Raman: In view of the importance of question No. 1128, that may also be taken up.

Mr. Speaker: I think, I must give precedence to question No. 1120 as the hon. Member is present.

Shri R. S. Lal: Question No. 1138 may also be taken up.

Mr. Speaker: Later on, if there is time.

हरिजन छात्रों की शिक्षा

*११२०. **श्री जांगड़े** : क्या शिक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने मध्य प्रदेश सरकार को हरिजन छात्रों की माध्यमिक शिक्षा के लिये कोई अनुदान दिया है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो कितना ?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das): (a) Yes—to Madhya Pradesh Government.

(b) A sum of Rs. 45,2000 was paid by the Government of India to the Madhya Pradesh Government in 1953-54 under the Scheme for the Removal of Untouchability, which included the grant of scholarships to Harijan students for Middle School, High School and College education.

श्री जांगड़े : क्या सरकार बता सकती है कि स्वतंत्रता के बाद मध्य प्रदेश शासन ने हरिजनों की शिक्षा के लिये कितना रुपया दिया है ?

Dr. M. M. Das: I think that question may conveniently be put to the State Government of Madhya Pradesh.

श्री जांगड़े : क्या मैं जान सकता हूं कि मध्य प्रदेश में काम करने वाले हरिजन सेवक संघ को केन्द्रीय शासन ने कितना रुपया दिया है ?

شکشا و پراکرتک سنسادھن تتھا ویگیانک گویشنا ملتری (مولانا آزاد): سنٹرل گورنمینٹ جو کچھ دیتی ہے اسٹیٹ گورنمینٹ کو دیتی ہے -

[The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad): Whatever the grant by the Central Government, it is made to the State Government.]

Arabic Translations of Ramayana etc.

*1138. **Shri R. S. Lal**: Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the copyright of the Arabic Translations of some of the Sanskrit Classics such as the *Mahabharata, Ramayana, Shakuntala*, etc., have recently been purchased by Government;

(b) if so, the number and the names of the books; and

(c) the price paid for them?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Six. The Ramayana, Mahabharata, the Bhagwad Gita, Shakuntala, Nala Damayanti and the Divine Chronicles (a summary of Indian Mythology).

(c) Rupees eighty thousand.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: May I know whether translations in other languages have also been ordered? If so, what are those languages.

شکشا و پراکرتک سنسادھن تتھا ویگیانک گویشنا ملتری (مولانا آزاد) : اور کسی دوسرے ترجمہ کا کام ابھی نہیں کیا جا رہا ہے -

[The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad): No other translation work is, at present being done.]

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: May I know whether the Education Ministry will try to have translations in other languages also?

Mr. Speaker: The question is not clear to me.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: The question is whether translations in other languages will also be purchased in due course?

مولانا آزاد : ہاں اگر کوئی ایسی تجویز گورنمنٹ کے سامنے آئے گی تو گورنمنٹ خوشی سے اس پر غور کریگی۔

[**Maulana Azad:** Yes, if any such proposal comes before the Government, the Government will, gladly, think over it.]

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether Government can give an idea of the number of copies likely to be sold in these countries?

Dr. M. M. Das: That has not yet been determined. The manuscripts are still lying with our Embassy in Egypt.

FLOOD-AFFECTED AREAS

*1128. **Shri Buchhikotaiah:** Will the Minister of **Home Affairs** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some kind of help for flood-affected people has been received from some foreign countries;

(b) if so, the names of the countries from which help has been received and the nature of help received; and

(c) the manner in which it has been distributed among the affected people?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) and (b). A statement containing the information so far available is placed on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix VII, annexure No. 1.]

(c) The information asked for is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

Shri Radha Raman: May I know if any governmental authority has made any appeal for help, and if so, who was that authority, and what was the total amount of help received from different countries?

Shri Datar: The total amount of help received has been mentioned in the statement itself.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know if any appeal was issued by any authority to other countries? If so, who was that authority who issued the appeal?

Shri Datar: I did not follow the hon. Member at all.

Mr. Speaker: He wants to know whether any appeal was issued to any other country, and if so, by whom?

Shri Datar: Government have not made any appeal at all. These are the various kinds of help that have come spontaneously to the Government of India.

Shri K. K. Basu: May I know whether any ban has been imposed on any non-official organisation receiving help from a foreign country and distributing it among the flood-affected areas?

Shri Datar: I am not aware of it.

Shri Meghnad Saha: Is the hon. Minister aware that relief on a very large scale is being given by the United States Government to flood-affected areas of East Bengal, and money sent by the West Bengal people to the East Bengal people has been refused there because the relief given by the Americans is so large that they do not need anything from India?

Shri Datar: I am not aware of what the hon. Member has stated about West Bengal. But here the amount that has been received by the Government of India has been mentioned in the statement.

Shri Radha Raman: May I know how this amount which is received is distributed among the various flood-affected areas in the various States?

Shri Datar: It will be distributed through the State Governments.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

KUNZRU COMMITTEE'S REPORT

*1113. **Ch. Raghubir Singh:** Will the Minister of **Defence** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kunzru Committee which was appointed in 1953 to advise Government on matters relating

to the rejection of officer cadets during their training has submitted its report; and

(b) if so, what are its recommendations?

The Minister of Defence Organisations (Shri Tyagi): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

GENERAL CULTURAL SCHOLARSHIPS SCHEME

*1115. **Shri Bahadur Singh:** Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to state the names of various Asian, African and Commonwealth Countries whose students are at present availing themselves of the educational facilities in India under the General Cultural Scholarships Scheme?

The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad): A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix VII, annexure No. 2.]

CENTRAL BUILDING RESEARCH INSTITUTE

*1116. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of **Natural Resources and Scientific Research** be pleased to state what equipment and supplies have been received so far by the Central Building Research Institute, Roorkee, under the Operational Agreement signed in May 1954 between India and the United States of America?

The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad): It is presumed that the hon. Member is referring to Supplement to Operational Agreement No. 13 which was signed in May, 1954. No equipment listed in this Supplement has been received upto date.

Ex-SERVICEMEN IN TRIPURA

*1117. **Shri Biren Dutt:** Will the Minister of **Defence** be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation has been received by Government from the *ex*-soldiers of Tripura;

(b) which is the authority dealing with the welfare and re-settlement of *ex*-soldiers in Tripura;

(c) whether any aid has been given to the *ex*-soldiers during 1951 to 1953 and if so, in what form; and

(d) whether Government have any scheme to create a reserve force from amongst them?

The Minister of Defence Organisations (Shri Tyagi): (a) Yes.

(b) The Government of Tripura.

(c) Yes. During the period March, 1951, to March, 1954, a sum of Rs. 3,277 was allotted from the Army Central Welfare Fund to the Assam Regimental Centre for providing relief to the *ex*-Servicemen of the Assam Regiment, including the *ex*-Servicemen from Tripura.

(d) No.

DROWNING OF INDIAN SOLDIERS IN KASHMIR

*1119. **Shri Ajit Singh:** Will the Minister of **Defence** be pleased to state:

(a) what was the cause of the recent drowning tragedy in Kashmir in March 1954, which resulted in the death of a number of Indian Army personnel;

(b) whether any officials were responsible; and

(c) if so, who and what action is being taken against them?

The Minister of Defence Organisations (Shri Tyagi): (a) An accident, which occurred while the troops were crossing river Tawi, on exercise.

(b) and (c). No officers were responsible for the accident, but certain further precautions could perhaps have been taken by some of them. After examining the Court of Enquiry proceedings, severe displeasure of the Commander-in-Chief has been conveyed to the Brigade Commander, the O.C. of the Unit has been reverted from the rank of Lieut-Colonel to

that of Major, and the Subedar Major has been retired from Service. A warning has also been given to the Commander and the staff of the Brigade Headquarters.

EXEMPTION OF TOBACCO FROM EXCISE DUTY

*1123. **Shri Badshah Gupta:** Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken to bring to the notice of tobacco-growers information regarding the quantity of tobacco exempted from excise duty: and

(b) whether any pamphlets have been distributed in regional languages?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri A. C. Guha): (a) and (b). In the course of their visits to tobacco-growing villages, the Central Excise Inspectors bring to the notice of all tobacco-growers the limits upto which each grower may retain tobacco without payment of duty for his personal consumption. Printed pamphlets have also been circulated in English and regional languages from time to time.

TRIBAL STUDENTS OF TRIPURA

*1130. **Shri Dasaratha Deb:** Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government grant any fixed quota of stipends every year to the tribal students of colleges, in Tripura;

(b) if not, the steps that Government propose to take to give higher education to these tribal students; and

(c) whether Government propose to take steps to reserve some seats every year in the college hostels for these students?

The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad): (a) No. Sir.

(b) Government of India Scheduled Castes and Tribes and Other Backward Classes Scholarships Scheme covers the requirements of tribal students for higher education.

(c) No, Sir.

SCHOOL OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES

*1144. **Ch. Raghubir Singh:** Will the Minister of **Defence** be pleased to state the average annual expenditure incurred by the Ministry on the School of Foreign Languages opened for the benefit of Military Officers?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Satish Chandra): The average annual expenditure on the School is about Rs. 47,000. The school is open not only to officers of the Defence Services but also to civilian officers of the Government of India.

HIGHER TRAINING FOR A.M.C. OFFICERS

*1148. **Ch. Raghubir Singh:** Will the Minister of **Defence** be pleased to state:

(a) how long the A. M. C. Officers who have been sent to the United Kingdom recently on study-leave will remain there; and

(b) the amount of expenditure likely to be incurred on them?

The Minister of Defence Organisations (Shri Tyagi): (a) Not longer than twelve months which may, however, be combined with other kinds of leave, excepting sick leave.

(b) About Rs. 1,20,000.

SMUGGLING OF OPIUM

547. **Shri Gohain:** Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state whether any steps have been taken to prevent the smuggling of opium and other prohibited articles in the Tirap Frontier Tract of N. E. F. Agency?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri A. C. Guha): Yes, Sir. Necessary staff has been posted at Hellgate and Ledo to prevent the smuggling of opium and other prohibited articles across the Tirap Frontier Tract of North East Frontier Agency.

SCHEDULED CASTE SCHOLARSHIPS

548. Shri K. C. Jena: Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications received by the Central Scholarship Board for Post-Matric Scholarships from the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students of Orissa for the year 1954-55:

(b) the number among them who have been awarded the stipends;

(c) whether these stipends have been paid; and

(d) if not, whether Government are aware that delay in paying the stipends defeats the purpose for which they are paid?

The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad): (a) 113.

(b) 109 students have been selected and the remaining four are not eligible, having failed in the last annual examination. Of the selected students, 71 whose applications were complete have been awarded scholarships. The remaining 38 students will also be awarded scholarships as soon as their applications are completed.

(c) Whenever possible, this has been done. Since however applications were received till August 31, 1954, payment of the first half-yearly instalment to all students was not possible. All awards are expected to be completed by next month.

(d) There is no delay in the payment of the scholarships. The heads of institutions are all the same requested at the time of the award of a scholarship not to press the selected student for payment of tuition fees and hostel charges, if any, till the payment of scholarship reaches the institution.

IMPHAL TOWN FUND ELECTIONS

549. Shri Rishang Keishing: Will the Minister of **States** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Imphal Town Fund authorities have prepared the electoral rolls for the Imphal Town Fund elections;

(b) if so, the names of the constituencies;

(c) the number of voters in each constituency;

(d) when the elections will be held;

(e) the expenditure incurred for the preparation of the electoral rolls; and

(f) the rules and procedure that will be followed in conducting the elections?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): The information is being collected from the Government of Manipur and will be placed on the Table of the House, when received.

I.A.F. STATION, CHAKERI (KANPUR)

550. { Shri A. K. Gopalan: / Shri V. P. Nayar:

Will the Minister of **Defence** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of civilian technical hands recruited at the Indian Air Force Station, Chakeri (Kanpur) since 1st July, 1953; and

(b) the number of technicians employed through employment exchanges?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) 150.

(b) 133. For the remaining 17 posts the Employment Exchange did not have suitable candidates to nominate.

PLANETARIUM AT CALCUTTA

551. Shri S. N. Das: Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal of the Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta to construct a Planetarium at Calcutta has materialised; and

(b) if so, the total amount sanctioned by Government for the purpose?

The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

DEFENCE FACTORIES

552. { **Shri A. K. Gopalan:** / **Shri Punnoose:**

Will the Minister of **Defence** be pleased to state:

(a) the turn-over of each of the Defence factories in respect of the value of goods manufactured for civilian use for the year 1953; and

(b) whether the full production capacity of these factories was utilised during this period?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) A statement showing the value of work done for civil Departments of Government and other civil indentors in each Ordnance Factory during the financial year 1953-54 is placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [*See* Appendix VII, annexure No. 31]. Total value of the work so done comes to Rs. 175·00 lakhs.

(b) The surplus manufacturing capacity in Ordnance Factories fluctuates from time to time depending upon orders from the Services. For this reason it is not possible to utilise maximum capacity all the time but effort is constantly directed to this end.

CIVILIAN DEFENCE ESTABLISHMENTS

553. **Shri Nambiar:** Will the Minister of **Defence** be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of employees of the different categories in the different Civilian Defence Establishments retrenched from the 1st July, 1953 to the 30th June, 1954;

(b) the number of such employees as were provided with alternative jobs category-wise; and

(c) the total number proposed to be further retrenched during 1954?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) 6937.

(b) Industrial personnel	318
Non-industrial personnel	1222
Casual	319
Civilians employed in lieu of combatants	375
Total	2234.

(c) The man-power requirements of the Defence installations are assessed periodically and the strength of each establishment fixed according to the work-load factors. Retrenchment is avoided wherever possible. It is not possible to indicate in advance the number of employees to be retrenched in the year.

ORDINANCES

554. **Th. Lakshman Singh Charak:** Will the Minister of **Law** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain ordinances promulgated before 1947 and after 1947 are still in force in the country; and

(b) if so, what are those ordinances?

The Minister of Law and Minority Affairs (Shri Biswas): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A list of Ordinances still in force is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix VII, annexure No. 4).

UNION PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

555. **Shri S. C. Singhal:** Will the Minister of **Home Affairs** be pleased to state the income derived by the Union Public Service Commission during the past three years by way of application and examination fees as also the scale of fees charged for the various examinations?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (i) Income from examination fees and application fees for selections:—

Year	1951-52	1952-53	1953-54
Exxminations	6,81,744	5,85,146	8,83,958
Selections .	1,43,725	1,27,642	1,32,602
Total	8,25,469	7,12,788	10,16,560

(ii) Scales of fees for the various examinations:—

Name of examination	Fees from ordinary candidates	Fees from Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Candidates
	Rs.	Rs.
Indian Administrative Service etc. Examination .	82 8 0	20 10 0
Engineering Services Examination . . .	82 8 0	20 10 0
Survey of India Examination . . .	82 8 0	20 10 0
Special Class Railway Apprentices . . .	7 8 0	1 14 0
Military Wing Examination . . .	37 8 0	9 6 0
Joint Services Wing Examination . . .	37 8 0	9 6 0
Indian Air Force Examination . . .	37 8 0	9 6 0
Indian Navy Examination . . .	37 8 0	9 6 0
T. S. "Dufferin" Examination . . .	37 8 0	9 6 0
Stenographers' Examination, November, 1954 .	7 8 0	1 14 0

NOTE.—To help such of the displaced persons as are not in a position to pay the application fees the Union Public Service Commission are authorised to remit the proscribed fees where they are satisfied that the applicant is a *bona fide* displaced person and is not in a position to pay the prescribed fees.

SPECIAL POLICE ESTABLISHMENT

556. **Ch. Raghubir Singh:** Will the Minister of **Home Affairs** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have framed the recruitment rules for the various posts in the Special Police Establishment;

(b) if so, what are those rules; and

(c) whether Government propose to lay them on the Table of the House?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): (a) Recruitment rules have not yet been finalized.

(b) Does not arise; however, it is intended that the rules will deal with the method of recruitment and lay down the requisite minimum educational qualifications for the various posts in the Special Police Establishment.

(c) No.

LOAN BY INTERNATIONAL BANK

557. **Ch. Raghubir Singh:** Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the International Bank has agreed to give a loan for some projects in the Bombay State;

(b) if so, the conditions under which this loan would be granted; and

(c) the report of the experts of the Bank in this connection?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri A. C. Guha): (a) The International Bank has agreed to consider loan assistance for the Trombay Thermal Electric Project of the Tatas and the Koyna Hydro-Electric Project of the Bombay Government.

(b) These have to be settled with the Bank by negotiations.

(c) The Report recommends that Trombay project is suitable for loan assistance but that the Koyna project needs further advanced engineering and technical studies before the Bank can consider such assistance.

MANGANESE MINES IN MADHYA PRADESH

558. **Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:**
Shri Kelappan:

Will the Minister of **Natural Resources and Scientific Research** be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of manganese mines working in Madhya Pradesh in 1953; and

(b) the total number of workers employed in those mines, how many of such mines have stopped work in 1953 and 1954 and the number of workers affected?

The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad): (a) and (b). A statement giving the information available is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix VII, annexure No. 5].

JOINT STOCK COMPANIES

559. **Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

(a) how many Joint Stock Companies have gone into liquidation since 1950;

(b) their paid up capital, preference shares, debentures and the contribution by the management;

(c) the business of such companies; and

(d) the cost of liquidation proceedings and the time they took for liquidation?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri M. C. Shah): (a) to (d). The question, as originally put by the hon. Member, required information in respect of public limited companies. Information collected accordingly is summarised in the Statement which is laid on the Table. [*See* Appendix VII, annexure No. 6]. A similiar statement relating to the private limited companies will be laid on the Table in due course.

TRAINING IN WEAVING

560. **Shri Rishang Keishing:** Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tribal students who have been trained in weaving by the Government of Manipur at their expense during 1952-53 and 1953-54;

(b) whether Government have any scheme to absorb the trainees after they finish their training;

(c) if so, how many of them have so far been employed;

(d) how long Government propose to continue the training; and

(e) the manner in which the finished products of the trainees are disposed of?

The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad): (a) 1952-53...Nil,

1953-54...Eight.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Upto 1955-56.

(e) By sale at cost price.

SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

561. **Shri Rishang Keishing:** Will the Minister of **Defence** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe personnel employed since 1952 in the Defence installations under the various Directorates;

(b) whether it is a fact that the percentages of reservations for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe personnel in Offices under the Defence Ministry are not being observed at the

time of recruitment and that an Army Order to this effect has been published; and

(c) the measures, if any, adopted by Government to remedy this?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) Complete and up-to-date information in regard to civilians in Defence installation is not readily available. It is being collected from over 2,000 lower formations and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha as soon as possible. There is no reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes personnel so far as Service personnel are concerned.

(b) The Army Order referred to by the hon. Member was issued in September, 1953, because it was brought to the notice of the various Ministries by the Home Ministry that the total number of vacancies notified to the Employment Exchanges as reserved for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribe personnel was less than the quota reserved for them, during the period March, 1952—March, 1953.

(c) Instructions have been issued to all lower formations that the orders regarding reservation of vacancies in civilian posts for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes personnel should be strictly complied with.

राष्ट्रीय संग्रहालय

५६२. **श्री आर० एस० तिवारी :** क्या शिक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) भारतवर्ष में सब से बड़ा संग्रहालय कहां पर है ;

(ख) उस पर प्रति वर्ष कितना व्यय होता है;

(ग) क्या भारतीय कला प्रदर्शिनी की वस्तुओं को इस संग्रहालय में रखने का विचार है ; और

(घ) यदि नहीं तो इसके लिये सरकार का क्या वैकल्पिक प्रबन्ध करने का विचार है ?

The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House in due course.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Government propose to retain in the National Museum, New Delhi, only those objects that have been loaned or gifted by their owners for the National Museum. All other objects, except a few, have been returned to their owners.

State Co-operative Banks

563. Th. Jugal Kishore Sinha: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to lay on the Table of the House a statement showing:

(a) the names of the State Co-operative Banks that have received agricultural and other loans from the Reserve Bank of India during the last four years;

(b) the amount of loan advanced to them; and

(c) the amount realised in each year and the interest charged by the Reserve Bank?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri A. C. Guha): (a) to (c). Two statements containing the required information—one in respect of agricultural loans and the other relating to non-agricultural loans—are placed on the Table of the Sabha. [*See* Appendix VII, annexure No. 7).

ऐतिहासिक वस्तुएं

५६४. **श्री जी० एल० चौधरी :** क्या शिक्षा मंत्री यह बतानें की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) १९५३-५४ में भारतवर्ष के पुरातत्व विभाग ने विभिन्न देशों के किन

किन संग्रहालयों को अपने यहां की ऐतिहासिक वस्तुएं भेजी हैं ; और

(ख) क्या इस काल में अन्य देशों से भी इस प्रकार की वस्तुएं हमारी वस्तुओं के बदले में भारतवर्ष में आई हैं ?

The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad): (a) (1) Director General of Antiquities, Iraq.

(2) National Museum, Malaya.

(b) Yes from (1) above.

DELEGATION TO RUSSIA

565 Shri Jethalal Joshi: Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to refer to the reply to starred question No. 111, asked on the 25th August, **1954 and state:**

(a) the object of the visit of the delegation of professors and students of the Indian Universities to Russia; and

(b) the period for which the delegation will stay there?

The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad): (a) The Moscow University invited some Universities to send teachers and students to Russia to get acquainted with the life and activities of the students in that country with a view to promoting better understanding between the two countries.

(b) One month, approximately.

INCOME-TAX OFFICE, BARIPADA

566. Shri B. C. Majhi: Will the **Minister of Finance** be pleased to **state:**

(a) whether Government are aware that the shifting of the Income-tax office at Baripada in Mayurbhanj District (Orissa), to some other place in the State, will cause a great hardship and inconvenience to the tax paying people there;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government to it;

(c) whether the Government of Orissa have been consulted in the matter; and

(d) if so, what is their view?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri M. C. Shah): (a) and (b). Do not arise as there is no move to shift the Income-tax Office from Baripada to some other place.

(c) and (d). The matter does not concern the Government of Orissa.

CENTRAL SECRETARIAT SERVICE

567. Shri N. A. Borkar: Will the Minister of **Home Affairs** be pleased to state:

(a) the present authorised strength (permanent and temporary) in each grade under the Central Secretariat Service Reorganisation and Reinforcement Scheme;

(b) the present actual strength in each grade; and

(c) the number of Scheduled Castes employees among them?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) The authorised permanent strength of various grades of the Service inclusive of the deputation and leave reserves is as shown below:—

Grade I (Under Secretary) ...	225
Grade II (Superintendent)	389
Grade III (Assistant Superintendent)	540
Grade IV (Assistant)	2500

The temporary strength of the various grades on any particular date depends on the number of posts of the grade sanctioned on that date. For Grades III and IV, however, there are Regular Temporary Establishments. The strength of these Establishments is under review.

(b) According to the information readily available, the numbers of posts available for officers of various grades are as follows:—

Grade I	278
Grade II	404
Grade III	548
Grade IV	3,341

(c) Grade I 2
Grade II 1
Grade III 2
Grade IV 84

Vol. VII—No. 22
20th September, 1954 (Monday)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

सत्यमेव जयते

(*Vol. VII contains Nos.* 16—31)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

SIX ANNAS (INLAND) TWO SHILLINGS (FOREIGN)

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

LOK SABHA

Monday, 20th September, 1954

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

11-52 A.M.

MESSAGE FROM THE RAJYA SABHA

Secretary: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary of the Rajya Sabha:—

"I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held on Friday, the 17th September 1954, passed the enclosed motion concurring in the recommendation of the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do join in the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Bill to prescribe punishment for the practice of untouchability or the enforcement of any disability arising therefrom. The names of the members nominated by the Rajya Sabha to serve on the said Joint Committee are set out in the motion."

MOTION

"That this House concurs in the recommendation of the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do join in the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Bill to prescribe punishment for the practice of untouchability or the enforcement of any disability arising therefrom and resolves that the following members of the Rajya Sabha be nominated to serve on the said Joint Committee: Shrimati Lilavati Munshi, Shrimati Beddavati Buragohain, Shri Alluri Satyanarayana Raju, Dr. N. S. Hardiker, Shri V. M. Surendra Ram, Shri Kishori Ram, Shri Ram Prasad Tamta, Thakur Bhanu Pratap Singh, Shri Trimbak Damodar Pustake, Shri Jagannath Das, Shri Nanabhai Bhatt, Kakasaheb Kalelkar, Shri M. Satyanarayana, Shri Surendranath Dwivedy, Shri N. C. Sekhar and Shri Narsingrao Balbhimrao Deshmukh."

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty (Basirhat): What about my adjournment motion?

Mr. Speaker: I am taking it up. After the formal business, it would be the first business to be taken up.

PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE

DELIMITATION COMMISSION, FINAL ORDER NO. 16

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Delimitation Commission. India. Final Order No. 16, dated the 30th August, 1954, under sub-section (2) of section 9 of the Delimitation Commission Act, 1952 [*Placed in Library. See* No. S-341/54.]

CONSTITUTION (THIRD AMENDMENT) BILL

PRESENTATION OF REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEE

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Defence (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): I beg to present the report of the Joint Committee on the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS FROM SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

Shri Altekar (North Satara): I beg to move:

> "That this House agrees with the Fourth Report of the Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House presented to the House on the 15th September, 1954."

I would like to make it clear, inasmuch as some hon. Members of this House enquired of me whether it was necessary to apply for leave for a period shorter than 60 days, and whether it was incumbent upon them to do so, that it is not necessary at all to apply for leave for a period shorter than 60 days. But it will be proper in my opinion and in the opinion of the Committee if the hon. Members inform us about it by way of a gesture of courtesy. Also, there is an advantage to be had by that. If a shorter leave is granted, he will be entitled to have another 59 days for being absent without taking the permission of this House. If he is ill and thinks that he will be all right within 30 days and he applies for a period of 30 days, he gets another 59 days, and this permission becomes a sort of advantage; he will be in an advantageous position. But if, without asking for any such leave, he is very ill, seriously ill and unable to make any application, and more than 60 days' leave is refused, his position will be precarious; that can very easily be seen by hon. Members. The functions of the Committee, according to rule 287, are:

> "(i) to consider all applications from members for leave of absence from the sittings of the House, and
>
> "(ii) to examine every case where a member has been absent for a period of sixty days or more, without permission from the sittings of the House and to report....."

The Committee can recommend for a shorter period and it will be to the advantage of the hon. Member.

12 NOON

There is another important point which has been laid down by this Committee, and that is in connection with the grounds for granting leave There was an application wherein an hon. Member stated that the political conditions in his State required his presence there, and that in order to make himself available for the State Government to arrest him, he was remaining in his constituency and not coming to this House. In the opinion of the Committee, Sir, this is not a proper ground and the Committee feels that applications asking for leave must be on proper grounds. In as much as the said hon. Member was already absent for more than 52 days and if he were informed that the leave could not be granted to him, he would have been under a great handicap, and moreover, as it was the first case, leave was granted to him. But, it is being brought to the notice of the House that if any reason is stated which the House will think to be improper, then such a leave will not be granted and the Committee will not recommend it. I think, Sir, that the report that has been presented to the House, should be agreed to by the House.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

> "That this House agrees with the Fourth Report of the Committee on Absence of Members

from the Sittings of the House presented to the House on the 15th September, 1954."

The motion was adopted.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

LATHI CHARGE ON DISPLACED PERSONS

Mr. Speaker: I have received a notice from Shrimati Renu Chakravartty of an adjournment motion which reads as under: The subject for observation is:

"The Lathi charge on displaced persons at the time of auction of Government built houses in Lajpat Nagar on 19th September, 1954."

I should like to know the facts about this from the hon. Minister.

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): Sir, I saw a report in the newspapers. The reports of the two newspapers, namely, *The Times of India* and the *Indian Express* were somewhat contradictory. I have not been able to ascertain the facts so far and I hope to make a statement on the facts tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker: Then I keep over the motion till tomorrow.

CENTRAL EXCISES AND SALT (AMENDMENT) BILL—*Concld.*

Mr. Speaker: The House will now proceed with the further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri A. C. Guha on 18th September, 1954:—

"That the Bill further to amend the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944, be taken into consideration."

The House is aware that 3 hours have been allotted to this Bill, out of which 31 minutes have been availed of on Saturday and 2 hours and 29 minutes now remain. This will mean that consideration of this Bill will conclude by about 2-30 P.M. The House will, thereafter take up the Chandernagore (Merger) Bill, for which 2 hours have been allotted. After that Bill is disposed of, the House will take up consideration of the Indian Tariff (Amendment) Bill, 1954.

पंडित डी० एन० तिवारी (सारन दक्षिण) : मैं बता रहा था कि किन परिस्थितियों में इस आर्डिनेन्स को जारी करना पड़ा । मैं ने बतलाया था कि मशीन के काम में आने के बाद बीड़ी का काम करने वाले मजदूरों में हाहाकार मचा तो गवर्नमेंट ने मजदूरों की रोजी की रक्षा करने के लिए एक आर्डिनेन्स जारी किया। आप को याद होगा कि इसी संसद के गत अधिवेशन में आनरेबल मिनिस्टर ने किसी प्रश्न के उत्तर में आश्वासन दिया था कि गवर्नमेंट इस सम्बन्ध में बहुत शीघ्र कार्यवाही करेगी और बीड़ी बनाने वाले मजदूरों को बेरोजगारी से बचायेगी । मैं माननीय सदस्यों का ध्यान गत ११ तारीख की रेशनेलाइजेशन की बहस पर ले जाना चाहता हूं । उस दिन आनरेबुल मेम्बर श्री पुन्नूस की तरफ से एक प्रस्ताव आया था कि कपड़े के उद्योग में रेशनेलाइजेशन न किया जाय । इस बहस का अर्थ यही था कि कपड़े के उद्योग में लगे मजदूरों की रोजी जिस में न घटे और उनमें बेरोजगारी न हो इस वास्ते रेशनेलाइजेशन का विरोध किया गया था और इस बात के लिये प्रयत्न किया गया कि मिल्स में रेशनेलाइजेशन लागू न किया जाय । अजीब परिस्थिति है अगर किसी कार्टेज इंडस्ट्री को बचाने के लिये मशीन से पैदा की हुई बीड़ी के खिलाफ कार्यवाही की जाती है तो उसका भी विरोध होता है और कहा जाता है कि बीड़ी सस्ती मिलेगी और इसलिये मशीन से बनी हुई बीड़ी को काम में लाया जाय और उसके लिये आर्डिनेंस जारी न किया जाय और कानून न बनाया जाय । समझ में नहीं आता कि प्रोग्रेस का क्या मतलब है । एक ओर तो रेशनेलाइजेशन का विरोध किया जाता है इस बिना पर कि अनएम्पलायमेंट होगा, दूसरी ओर अनएम्पलायमेंट को मिटाने के लिये यदि बीड़ी बनाने वाली मशीन के खिलाफ कोई कार्यवाही

[पंडित डी० एन० तिवारी]

की जाय तो उसका विरोध किया जाता है। तो कौन सा रास्ता अख्तियार किया जाय।

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

दूसरी बात यह है कि बीड़ी के उद्योग में ६ लाख मजदूर काम करते हैं। एक बीड़ी बनाने वाली मशीन करीब १२ आदमियों का काम कर देती है। अर्थात यदि मशीन से काम लिया जाय तो सैंकड़ों पीछे आठ मजदूर ही उतना काम कर लेंगे जितना ६ लाख मजदूर काम करते हैं। अगर इन मशीनों पर ४८ हजार मजदूर काम करें तो अभी हिन्दुस्तान में जितनी बीड़ी बनती है वह बना लेंगे। और उस परिस्थिति में साढ़े पांच लाख मजदूर बेकार हो जायेंगे। फिर यह प्रश्न उठ खड़ा होगा कि इन साढ़े पांच लाख मजदूरों को कहां और कैसे काम पर लगाया जाय। तो अब हमें यह देखना है कि इस बीड़ी बनाने वाली मशीन की हम इजाजत दें या जो ड्यूटी लगायी है उसको हटा लें जिसमें साढ़े पांच लाख मजदूर बेकार हो जायं। आजकल हमारे देश में अनएम्पलायमेंट दिन ब दिन बढ़ता जा रहा है। इसलिये यह विचार करने की बात है कि एक अनएम्पलायमेंट की एक नई समस्या को खड़ा कर देना कहां तक उचित होगा।

श्री गुरुपादस्वामी ने कहा कि बीड़ी के लिये बाहर मार्केट क्रियेट किया जाय। मैं ने कुछ आंकड़े देखने का प्रयत्न किया है। बीड़ी कहीं बाहर नहीं भेजी जाती है। केवल हिन्दुस्तान और पाकिस्तान में इसकी खपत होती है और कुछ नेपाल में जाती है। गत वर्ष से पाकिस्तान में बीड़ी का जाना बन्द हो गया है क्योंकि ट्रेड एग्रीमेंट उसके मुताबिक नहीं है। तो अब बीड़ी की खपत केवल हिन्दुस्तान और नेपाल में है। दूसरी जगह इसका कोई मार्केट नहीं है। यह भी सम्भव नहीं है कि मशीन से सस्ती बीड़ी बना कर हम दूसरे देशों को निर्यात कर दें। तब इस बिल का विरोध क्यों किया जाता है। मेरी समझ में माननीय सदस्यों को हर गवर्नमेंट मेजर का विरोध करना है इसलिये इसका भी विरोध जरूरी हो गया। मैं नहीं समझता कि इतने छोटे से बिल पर, जिसको कि पांच, दस मिनट में खत्म किया जा सकता था, इतना अधिक समय क्यों बरबाद किया जाय।

इस पर दो अमेंडमेंट्स आये हैं। पहला अमेंडमेंट है श्री गुरुपादस्वामी का कि इसको सर्क्यूलेशन के लिये भेज दिया जाय। दूसरा अमेंडमेंट है कि इसको सिलेक्ट कमेटी के सुपुर्द कर दिया जाय। मैं नहीं समझता कि इस बिल को क्यों सर्क्यूलेशन के लिये भेजा जाय जब कि हमको सारी बातें मालूम हैं कि कितने मजदूर इसमें काम करते हैं, कितनी बीड़ियां बनती हैं, कितने मजदूर बेकार हो जायंगे आदि। यह कोई इतना कमप्लेक्स बिल नहीं है कि जिसको सिलेक्ट कमेटी में भेजा जाय। यदि यह कोई कमप्लेक्स बिल होता तो सिलेक्ट कमेटी के पास सोच विचार के लिये जाता और वहां से सुधर कर आता। अब आप इसको यहां सुधार सकते हैं। इसको न सिलेक्ट कमेटी में भेजने की जरूरत है और न सर्क्यूलेशन में भेजने की जरूरत है। मैं गवर्नमेंट को धन्यवाद देता हूं कि गवर्नमेंट ने इस मामले में इतनी जल्दी कदम उठाया और इसके लिये एक आर्डिनेन्स जारी किया। अब हमको इसे कानून का रूप दे देना चाहिये।

Shri Sadhan Gupta (Calcutta—South-East): The Bill has been described as non-controversial. Whatever it may be, it undoubtedly raises very important issues. The issues are important because they concern an industry which can be said to be one of the major industries in the country. It is a major industry because it provides employment to about six lakhs of persons, and I think very few industries, whether organised or unorganised, can be said to provide employment to so many persons in our country. That is why I say it concerns a major industry and it raises this important issue in respect of that industry, namely, whether this vast mass of people will face unemployment in the near future.

This industry, although employing such a numerous population, has had a very raw deal—I mean the employees of the industry have had a very raw deal—at the hands of the Government. The employers have successfully evaded factory legislation by adopting the system of out-door works, by doling out leaves and tobacco to people working at their homes and thereby not establishing what may be called a factory. Secondly, they have often split up their workshops into small units and thereby escaped factory legislation. In this way they have succeeded in imposing the most inhuman exploitation on the workers. Work-places are most unhealthy; not the minimum amenities of civilized labour conditions are provided. And the result is that tuberculosis is very rampant among the *biri* workers. As regards wages, they only earn about Rs. 25 to Rs. 35 each per month on the basis of the output that they can put in. In the case of big *biris* I understand they earn a little more. But even that is not very great. It is about Rs. 35 to Rs. 45 a month for big *biris*. That is the position. No amenities, no labour legislation, and very small earnings, very unhealthy conditions of work. And on top of that today comes the threat of widespread unemployment through mechanised competition. It is for this reason that we are opposed to mechanisation. I shall deal in one moment with the arguments advanced for mechanisation. But the position is that we are for mechanisation only when mechanisation can be effected without creating misery in the people.

The Government's position in this respect is thoroughly incomprehensible to us. The Deputy Finance Minister in his speech has said that he calculates the profit at Rs. 1-14-0 and has imposed a duty of three rupees. He therefore thinks that the duty will be prohibitive against the introduction of machines.

That does not seem to be his argument in the Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Bill itself. What does he say there? He says: "With a view to obtaining for the State the advantage gained in *biri* manufacture by machines by the considerable lowering of the cost of production"—Sir, mark these words 'the considerable lowering of the cost of production'—"and at the same time mitigating the effects of the unfair competition of machine-made *biris*, the Government of India promulgated an Ordinance called the Central Excises and Salt (Amendment) Ordinance etc."

So the idea seems to be not only to gain for the State the advantage derived by manufacturers of *biris* by mechanical process but also to protect the manual workers from unfair competition. I cannot understand this line of argument. If you want to prohibit the machinery, if you think that your tax is prohibitive, that is one matter. There is no question of gaining advantage by manufacturers and no question of gaining part of that advantage for the State. If you think they are going to gain some advantage, they are going to make some profits, and you can take part of the profits, then there is no sense in saying that "we are seeking to prohibit it".

We are quite clear in our principles. We want an outright ban on the introduction of these machines. We think that, until the situation in India is such that every man can be provided with a job, there is no case for introducing mechanical processes which will throw masses of people out of employment.

Shri D. C. Sharma (Hoshiarpur): May I ask the hon. Member if he wants a total ban on all kinds of mechanisation in India, and if that is the practice in other progressive countries which he knows very well?

Shri Sadhan Gupta: I would answer him by repeating what I said, that we oppose all kinds of mechanisation which would lead to mass unemployment and, if he talks of progressive countries, I would say it is perhaps not the practice in countries which I think to be progressive be-

cause those countries guarantee a job for every one who wants it.

Shri D. C. Sharma: Under what conditions?

Shri Sadhan Gupta: Under what conditions? They guarantee everyone a job, a living, whoever is willing to work. That is the situation in a progressive country. Therefore, we cannot think in terms of progressive countries. We have to think in terms of the reaction of this mechanisation on the workers in this industry and we have to provide for protection in this reactionary country where employment cannot be provided for millions. Unemployment is increasing and so we must protect them against further unemployment through the introduction of mechanical processes. Now, as I was saying, the Finance Minister's speech speaks with one voice. He says it is a prohibitive duty. The statement of Objects and Reasons speaks with another voice. It says that it is an attempt to minimise competition and to attract some of the profits for the State. It also speaks of considerable reduction in the cost of production through the introduction of machines and let us look at the Bill from that point of view. Sir, the disadvantage which the Bill gives for the manufacture of *biri* through mechanised process is really very slight. It seems one machine can manufacture about 8,000 *biris* in eight hours time. Now to manufacture 8,000 *biris* in eight hours the person operating the machine or the person owning the machine would probably have to employ 15 labourers—*biri* workers So he gains the advantage of replacing 15 labourers by one machine and most probably since the machines are very low-priced it will be possible for the owner himself to operate the machines and to manufacture *biris* for himself instead of employing 15 workers. The result is that although he pays excise duty of Rs. 24/- for eight thousand, he saves in labour and amount equal to, the wages of 15 labourers; wages, of course, vary but he may save in labour at the rate of Rs. 2/8- per thousand which is the wage in some provinces. He will save about Rs. 37/8/- or if we take it at the rate of Rs. 1/8/- per thousand as a representative case, he would save about Rs. 22/8/- in labour and pay Rs. 24/-. Now we are told that it will considerably reduce the cost of production. The advantage he loses is only Rs. 1/8/- in labour costs and it may be that that will be made up—or more than made up—by the considerable lowering of the cost of production. Therefore I think the Statement of Objects and Reasons is more correct than the picture drawn by the Deputy Minister and, therefore, I would suggest that the excise duty should be really raised to a prohibitive level. Sir, I gave notice of an amendment to change Rs. 3/- to Rs. 8/-. Of course I myself am not a consumer of *biri;* so I am not very familiar with the price of *biris* but on an enquiry which I should say is not very reliable, I came to understand that the price of *biris* was upto Rs. 8/- per thousand. I will be quite content if the excise duty imposed is equivalent to the market price of *biris* at present which will absolutely wipe off any idea or possibility of competition by machine-made *biris* with hand-made *biris*. That is what should be the object—to make it impossible for machine-made *biris* to compete with the hand-made *biris* so as to give protection to the six lakhs of workers who are employed in this industry in various parts. Sir, they are spread all over the country, in Madhya Bharat, in Madhya Pradesh, in West Bengal. I know, for example, that it is the very important part of the occupation of the Muslim slump-dwellers in Calcutta. Similarly, whether they are Hindus or Muslims, whether they are Bengalis, Biharis or they belong to other States and however low may be the wages that they earn by it, such is the miserable state of our country that they have to rely on this miserable pittance to eke out what is supposed to be a human existence in our country. Now, Sir, that is why we entirely oppose this attempt to

mechanise this industry. I should now give some more arguments.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: A number of hon. Members, who want to take part have sent me chits. The time at our disposal is upto 2-30 P.M. For the clause by clause consideration and for the third reading I reserve half an hour from 2 o'clock. We must dispose of the consideration stage by 2 o'clock. How long does the hon. Minister propose to take?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri A. C. Guha): That would depend on the points made by the hon. Members. I think I shall take fifteen minutes.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Then I will make it 15 minutes and I will call him at quarter to two.

Shri A. C. Guha: Am I to understand that this general discussion will continue up to 2 o'clock?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The time allotted is upto 2-30 P.M. for this Bill.

There are amendments only to clause 2. Therefore, we will dispose of the amendments and the third reading within half an hour. Much depends upon the general discussion. I propose allowing ten minutes each to the hon. Members.

Some Hon. Members: Five minutes.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Very well.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: I am the spokesman of my group. I may be given a little more time.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There are other parties also.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: The spokesmen of the parties may be given a little more time.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have already given thirteen minutes to the hon. Member. Two minutes more then.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: Sir, arguments have been advanced to say that mechanisation will not displace labour. It has been suggested that there was an industrial revolution in England and although the employees thought that it would adversely affect employment, it really led to increase of employment. But we cannot go by those arguments. It is in uncontrovertible fact that an industrial revolution takes at least a few years to mature and a man takes only ten or eleven days to die without food and drink. Therefore, we cannot go on those arguments. When mechanisation has to be undertaken, it must be undertaken after everyone is assured of a living.

Secondly, Sir, that argument is not a valid one here because in this benighted state of our country, where purchasing power is decreasing gradually, there is no question of an industrial revolution taking place by mechanisation. I could have explained my point but I have no time.

Sir, I will deal lastly with an argument that it is necessary to mechanise in order to combat competition. That is a wrong argument. We cannot bring unemployment in order to combat the competition by cheap cigarettes. If we want to combat competition by cheap cigarettes we have to prohibit their manufacture. We have to impose an excise duty on them and not do it by mechanising and throwing people out of employment in this particular industry. Now the other argument advanced by my friend Mr. Gurupadaswamy was that machines were also manufactured by our own country-men therefore we should not ban them. I cannot accept that argument because the question is of one or two inventors *versus* six hundred thousand of our country-men and if that is the question, the interests of six hundred thousand must prevail and the interests of one or two must go under. Therefore, I would ask the Government to increase the excise duty on machine-made *biris* and not to take the risk of leaving some profits in the hands of the machine-made *biri* manufacturers and thereby expose our millions of *biri* workers to unfair competition.

Shri Asoka Mehta (Bhandara): Sir, I come from a constituency where we are having a hundred thousand *biri*

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workers and where the *biri* industry is very widely spread. I believe I am entitled to make a claim that I know something about the *biri* industry. This industry is in the hands of a group of monopolists and a situation has been created today where the *biri* industry itself is in a bad way. Firstly, because of the monopoly control and secondly because of a particular system called the *chatani* system, about which my colleague from my constituency said something here in the course of his observations. While the *biris* are farmed out for manufacture, before they are taken back, 20 to 25 per cent. of the *biris* are not paid for They are treated as *chatani biris* for which no payment is made. This has led to a considerable amount of ill-will between the workers on the one hand and the manufacturers on the other. Thirdly, wages are stagnating. It is impossible to pay higher wages. The workers are demanding higher wages. The manufacturers are finding it increasingly difficult and the result has been, that the quality of the *biris* has been going down. The employers have been complaining of bad workmanship on the part of the workers and the workers have been complaining against the employers and the net result has been the general lowering of the standard of the *biris* in the country.

Biris have to face serious competition from cheap cigarettes. As far as cheap cigarettes are concerned, those that cost Rs. 7-8-0 per thousand or less have to pay only one rupee as excise duty while here we are suggesting an excise duty of Rs. 3/- on *biris* manufactured by machines. I fully sympathise with the need for protecting the employment of hundreds of thousands of our people who are today engaged in *biri* manufacture. But, we have to raise their standard of life also. We have got to make it possible for them to earn more and improve the quality of the *biris*. We have also got to explore export markets. We had a goods export market before. Cheap cigarettes on the one hand and cheap cheroots on the other are providing serious competition to our *biris*. While the quality of our *biris* going down, competition is becoming all the more virulent. We have therefore got to discover ways whereby standard types of cheap *biris* can be manufactured, and export markets can be obtained for our products.

One of the ways of expanding our export markets would be to provide some rebate in the excise duty when the *biris* manufactured by the machines are permitted to be exported. Wherever they are exported, some provision should be made for giving them a rebate. Secondly, there is no possibility of 75 crores of *biris* a day being manufactured by machines in the near future. It would need something like 40,000 automatic *biri* machines and an equal number of vacuum-*cum*-compression units, and a lakh of punching and packing machines. All these machines cannot be manufactured overnight. It has been estimated that it would take perhaps 20 to 25 years before these machines can be made. I would suggest that these machines should be allowed to be introduced. If they are allowed to be introduced by the monopolists, it will create a great havoc.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Where are the machines manufactured?

Shri Asoka Mehta: They are manufactured in India. It is an Indian invention, patented in India and other parts of the world. It should be possible for us to regulate the manufacture and sale of these machines also. My suggestion is that these machines should be made available and some rebate should be allowed in the excise duty wherever these machines are made use of by a co-operative society consisting entirely of workers. I am anxious, because I am intimately connected with this industry in my constituency, that we should progressively bring about a change over in this industry from the present position where there are a

number of monopolists on the one hand and a large number of scattered workers, sweated labour on the other to co-operative manufacture of *biris*. In order to enable sweated labour to come together and organise themselves into co-operatives, and make it possible for them to raise their level, by providing themselves with these machines, we may give them credit facilities. In that way, these technological changes may be utilised to achieve some sociological advantages also.

The question of rationalisation has to be looked at from different aspects and given detailed consideration. We cannot say that we are opposed to all kinds of rationalisation in all circumstances. Nor can we say that we will allow rationalisation in all circumstances. Every scheme of rationalisation has to be considered on its merits. Every scheme of rationalisation has to be worked out in a certain sociological context. In the *biri* industry, it is possible to organise co-operatives. Today, it is difficult to organise co-operatives because, the difficulty is in finding markets. These well organised monopolists have got markets all over the country. Their labels have got wide currency. Their labels have got a nation-wide reputation. It will be very difficult for ordinary co-operatives to compete with them in the market. If we allow them to use these machines and if a rebate is given to them in the excise duty that is to be charged, it will be possible for these people to compete in the market and slowly this industry will change over from being a monopolistic one into an organised co-operative industry.

In that connection, I would like to make a further suggestion. I believe that the Defence Ministry puts in a large indent for *biris*. Wherever Government makes any indent for *biris*, such indents should be obtained from the co-operatives, preferably co-operatives which start using these machines. Because, that would enable the people in my constituency to earn a living wage. One lakh of them belong to the Scheduled Castes. I am anxious that the economic and social position of these Scheduled Caste workers should be raised. If they are encouraged to form co-operatives and if they are allowed the use of some of these machines, the result will be that their social position and economic position will slowly improve.

I may also point out that, to the best of my knowledge, one machine today will do the work of five persons and not more. Whether it is five or eight is a matter that can be looked into. It may also be possible for the Government to see that the machines that are introduced are not of a highly evolved character. It must be noted that in the case of cigarettes, the whole process of manufacture is different. The paper is put in and cigarettes can be rolled out at the other end any number. In the case of *biris*, this can never be done. Every *biri* leaf has to be separately treated. The process of cigarette manufacture is absolutely different from *biri* manufacture. Even if *biri* manufacture is mechanised, there is bound to be a difference between the two processes. Any machine for manufacturing *biris* is bound to be technologically at a lower level than a cigarette manufacturing machine. It is possible for the Government to see that the machine that is introduced is of a fairly low level. Not more than five workers' work will be done by a machine. As I said, if the private manufacturer tries to use the machines, you may increase the excise duty, if you like, as my hon. friend Shri Sadhana Gupta suggested. Wherever co-operatives start to use the machines, please encourage them so that we may be able to bring about a change over. We must develop our export markets. *Biri* has a special flavour. Those who smoke *biris* will be able to tell you this. They will not be satisfied with cigarettes, cigars or cheroots. It is possible to create a market for our *biris* in the world provided we can produce standard *biris* of quality according to specifications. It would be possible to do that only if we allow the introduction of the

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machines and if some kind of rebate is given. Perhaps we shall be providing more employment and we shall be creating a market that does not exist now or is shrinking. While maintaining the employment of a large number of people who are employed today in the manufacture of *biris* by hand, it should be possible for us to bring about slowly these changes which will in course of time achieve the switch-over that most of us desire.

Shri Bimlaprosad Chaliha (Sibsagar—North—Lakhimpur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I have great pleasure in supporting this Bill, because by this Bill Government demonstrate their desire to come to the help of the cottage industries and also a definite policy in that direction.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh (Hazaribagh West): No.

Shri Bimlaprosad Chaliha: The role of cottage industries in the economy of India has been recognised and it is good that the Government of India as well as the State Governments, in the meantime, have taken certain steps for the development of cottage industries. In spite of all these efforts, unless there is protection from the State I am afraid, Sir, the cottage industries by themselves may not thrive. This is, of course, one measure in respect of the *biri* industry. We are at the moment looking at this question more from the point of view of employment. In addition to this it is certain that we have to improve the condition of the *biri* workers. For that purpose we should think of bringing the *biri* workers under certain co-operative organisations and to protect them from the exploitation of the middleman.

The All-India Khadi and Village Industries Board has published certain statistics which reveal the seriousness about the employment situation in our country. I am reading out some of the statistics which were reproduced in the "Economic Review". In the year 1901 the percentage of workers was 50·1 and non-working dependents was 49·9. In the year 1951 the percentage of workers has gone down to 39·9 and the percentage of non-working dependents has gone up to 60·1. In the same way, in the agricultural sector and also in the non-agricultural sector, the statistics show that the employment situation is deteriorating. There may be many reasons for this deterioration in the employment situation, but there is no doubt that the big industries are to a great extent responsible for this progressive deterioration in the employment situation.

I am again, Sir, referring to the statistics. We find that in the cotton spinning, sizing and weaving industry (unorganised) in the year 1911 as many as 28,40,000 people were engaged. As against that, in the year 1951, in the organised industry we have 7,80,000 and in unorganised we have only 16,70,000. That means, there is a net fall of about 6,30,000 workers in the cotton spinning, sizing and weaving industry. In the same way in the pounding and husking of rice and flour industries there is a fall of about 7,00,000 since 1901. The same thing can be said about the oil pressing industry. So, while I fully agree with Mr. Asoka Mehta that we cannot say for all time that we will have no rationalisation, yet we have to see what will be the effect of a particular step at a particular moment and decide our course.

So far the *Biri* industry is concerned, various things have been said in support of the machine. I am glad that the inventor of the machine is an Indian. I have every sympathy for him. In India as compared to the other countries, the number of inventors are few, and therefore it is our duty to encourage the few who show talents in this direction. But

we have to make a judicious application of the inventions. We must see what will be the effect on the society as a result of introducing a particular invention. Now, if the machine can replace five men or ten, whatever it may, there is no doubt about the fact that this machine, if introduced, will displace some persons from the *biri* industry. How are you going to provide work for them? If we have a suitable insurance scheme, if we have some ready scheme by which you can provide work, well, we can go ahead with the machine. But, it will be wrong for us to go in for the machine before we can make any alternative arrangement for employment.

I do not want to speak more on this subject, but I would only hope that the same boldness which the Government have shown for the protection of this cottage industry, will be shown in respect of the other cottage industries also which may need protection, because it is certain that in the economy of India, if not for all the time at least for many years to come, the cottage and village industries shall have to play a vital role. Therefore all possible State help and protection should be there for the cottage and village industries.

सरदार ए० एस० सहगल (बिलासपुर) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, यह जो बिल मंत्री महोदय लाये हैं, मैं समझता हूं कि उसमें जो बीड़ी बनाने की मशीन हैं उसको प्रोत्साहन देने के लिये यह चीज हैं। आज जो बीड़ी बनाने की मशीन हैं जो कि बीड़ी का व्यापार कर रहे हैं और मध्यप्रदेश में खास कर जहां पर कि करीब करीब तीन लाख मजदूर से कम नहीं होंगे, ऐसा मेरा अन्दाज हैं और खास कर उस क्षेत्र से जहां से मैं खुद आता हूं यानी बिलासपुर जिले में काफी तादाद में लोग इस बीड़ी बनाने के धंधे में लगे हुए हैं, लेकिन इस धंधे को करने के लिये जो बड़े बड़े लोग हैं, उनकी मोनोपली हर जगह पर हैं और यदि यह मान लिया कि यह मशीन उनके हाथ में गयी, और मशीनों के जरिये से उन्होंने काम लिया तो उस बेचारे गरीब मजदूर की क्या हालत होगी जो दिन भर काम करने के बाद मुश्किल से एक हजार बीड़ी नहीं बना पाता हैं। ये जो हमारे गरीब बीड़ी बनाने वाले मजदूर हैं ये उन बड़े बड़े लोगों के यहां से पत्ते लेते हैं ताम्बाकू लेते हैं। बीड़ी के पत्तों को लेने के बाद ये उनको काटते हैं और काटने के बाद ये उनमें तम्बाकू भरते हैं और इस तरह से बीड़ी बनाते हैं। जिस वक्त बीड़ी बनाने वालों ने अपनी आवाज उठायी कि हमें ज्यादा पैसा मिलना चाहिये उस वक्त इन बड़े बड़े लोगों के कान पर, जिनके पास सारा मध्यप्रदेश का व्यापार हैं, जूं तक नहीं रेंगी। इसलिये यदि इस चीज को आप लाना ही चाहते हैं तो मैं ने एक अपनी तरमीम दी हैं, वह तरमीम तो मैं समझता हूं कि बहुत ही छोटी हैं यानी तीन रुपये के बजाय साढ़े तीन रुपये कर दिया जाय, मगर खाली यह तरमीम मंजूर कर लेने से हमारा काम नहीं चलने वाला हैं। हमें तो यह देखना होगा कि यह जो आखिर मध्यप्रदेश में करीब करीब तीन लाख से ज्यादा मजदूर काम कर रहे हैं, उनकी हालत को हम कैसे सुधार सकते हैं। और उसके लिये मैं आपको सुझाव दूंगा कि सहकारिता के सिद्धान्त पर, कोऑपरेटिव बेसिस पर उनकी आप संस्थायें बनायें और उन संस्थाओं को तो आप ये बीड़ी बनाने की मशीनें आदि दें, दूसरे मालिकों को न दें ताकि मजदूरों को इतनी मजदूरी मिले जिससे वे अपने परिवार की परवरिश कर सकें। मशीन पर आठ घंटे काम करने के बाद ये करीब करीब आठ हजार बीड़ी बना सकेंगे, लेकिन आपको मालूम होना चाहिये कि एक मजदूर दिन भर काम करने के बाद रात में आठ, नौ बजे तक अपने बच्चों और स्त्री को भी उस काम में लगाने के बाद एक हजार बीड़ी मुश्किल से बना सकता हैं, आप समझ सकते हैं कि ज्यादा मशीनें लगने की हालत में उनका याने बीड़ी बनाने वालों का क्या बनेगा और इस मशीन के लगने से इस कॉटेज इंडस्ट्री में जो लाखों मजदूर काम करते हैं उनको जितना फायदा होना चाहिये नहीं मिलेगा। इसलिये मेरी तो राय हैं कि इस मशीन को कदापि हमें लाग नहीं करना चाहिये। लेकिन

[सरदार ए० एस० सहगल]

अगर आपने लाग् ही करना है तो इस तरह से लाग् कीजिये कि कोऑपरेटिव बेसिस पर मजदूरों की प्रतिनिधि संस्थाओं को मशीनें बनवा कर दे दीजिये, उनकी रजिस्ट्री करा लें ताकि वह अपना कुछ काम मशीन से कर सकें। इसलिये मैं तो आपसे यह कहूंगा कि आप यहां पर जो सिगरेट बनाने की मशीनें हैं और जो कि कागज से बनायी जाती हैं और बीड़ी बनाने की मशीनों में काफी फर्क है। बात असल यह है कि आप कागज के जरिये से सिगरेट बना लेते हैं, लेकिन बीड़ी बनाने में जो पत्ता काम आता है वह कागज जिस तरह से एक लेयर में याने एक पर एक आता जाता है उस तरह से यह पत्ता नहीं आ सकता। कहने की गरज यह है कि बीड़ी के उद्योग में जो काम करने वाले मजदूर लोग हैं वे मशीन से ज्यादा बीड़ी नहीं बना सकेंगे और हाथ से बीड़ी बनाने वालों को तो काफी नुकसान पहुंचेगा। ऐसी परिस्थिति में उन के लिये जो आप ने यह २ रु० हजार का रेट रक्खा है, वह मैं समझता हूं बहुत कम है। इस से उन्हीं लोगों को फायदा होगा जो बड़े बड़े लोग हैं और जिन की मध्य प्रदेश में मोनोपली है, दूसरों को कोई फायदा नहीं होगा।

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं मंत्री जी से कहूंगा कि आप इस पर विचार करें और विचार करने के बाद आप कोई इस प्रकार की स्कीम लायें, जिस से जो बीड़ी की कार्टेज इन्डस्ट्री में काम करने वाले मजदूर हैं उनको फायदा हो सके। मैं इस विधेयक का समर्थन करता हूं।

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Shri K. C. Sodhia. The hon. Member is absent. Very often, he complains that he is not called, but when he is called, he is not there in the House.

Shri Barman (North Bengal—Reserved—Sch. Castes): I have not studied the economy of the *biri* industry or the question of cottage industry *versus* machine industry, so closely as my other friends who spoke earlier. So, I shall not dilate on that aspect of the matter.

At the outset, I want to make one general observation that though this industry gives employment to lakhs of people, still, the industry itself cannot be commended to the nation. It is definitely injurious to the health, particularly to the throat and the lungs. My hon. friend Shri Asoka Mehta said earlier that consumption is prevalent among the *biri* workers. I think that is because they are *biri* workers, and since they make *biris*, they smoke much more *biris* than other consumers. Perhaps, that is one of the reasons why they are so much affected by these sorts of diseases.

But so long as we are not in a position to give better employment to our people, we must allow this *biri* industry to continue, so that it gives employment to as many people as possible. So, when Government have come forward with this ordinance, and later on with this Bill, we all welcome it, because it saves lakhs of people from unemployment.

In this connection, I want to impress upon Government the need for the same principle to be adopted in the case of some other industries also. My hon. friend Shri Bimlaprosad Chaliha has already made a reference to them. I am referring to the handpounding of rice industry, and the oil crushing or *ghani* industry. These two cottage industries had at one time given employment to lakhs and lakhs of people in our country. Coming from the rural areas, we know that even a widow can maintain at least two or three of her children, simply by engaging herself in the handpounding of rice. Roughly, a maund of paddy gives about twenty-six to twenty-seven seers of rice, and as a general rule, by selling about twenty seers of rice, she gets back the price of one maund of paddy, and thus six or seven seers of rice are left for her consumption as well as that of her two or three children. Thus, she is able to have a means of subsistence, even when she is left without any earning member. This handpounding of rice industry

once gave employment to lakhs and lakhs of people in this country. But when the war came, perhaps, the Government also might not have been willing to ecourage these small rotary machines; they had to give permission to install big machines, because of the war, and after the war was over, because of rationing of rice and other foodstuffs. Now that the food position in the country has eased, and all the controls also have been withdrawn, I would ask Government to apply the principle that they have applied here to rice milling and handpounding of rice also. They should now try to restrict the millink of rice and encourage and subsidize as much as possible the handpounding of rice, so that once again, lakhs and lakhs of our countrymen who have been thrown out of employment by the big rice mills may get back their means of subsistence.

In regard to the oil crushing industry, before the war, we made a survey of this cottage industry. At that time, I think it was in 1939, we found that roughly, there were about three lakhs of *ghanis* in our country. After the war was over, we made a survey in 1949, and we found from the reports that were given to us by the States that the number of three lakhs had been reduced to something like one and a half lakhs. And even out of these one and a half lakhs of *ghanis*, only about sixty-five per cent. were working, and the others could not work owing to the competition of the big oil mills. Apart from the fact that the process by which the oil crushing is done being hygienic and better stuff being made available for food purposes, this industry was giving employment to lakhs and lakhs of our countrymen. It was an established industry at one time in our country. But it has now been crippled by the big oil mills. We had made a number of suggestions to Government in this regard, but they have not taken action on them actively. They have taken action only on some small recommendations here and there, but what they have done has not been effective enough to support or to revive the oil crushing industry on a cottage industry scale.

It is now proper time, when our countrymen are out of employment in lakhs and crores, that our Government should try in all possible ways to revive these industries, the economy of which has been well-tried, and thus give employment to our people in an industry which is healthy, which has no injurious effect, and which will benefit crores of our people.

With these words, I support the Bill.

श्री एस० एन० दास (दरभंगा-मध्य): उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, केन्द्रीय उत्पादन शुल्क तथा लवण अधिनियम १९४४ में संशोधन के द्वारा हाथ से बनी बीड़ियों की मशीन से बनी बीड़ियों से रक्षा करने के उद्देश्य से मशीन से बनी बीड़ियों पर २ रु० प्रति हजार उत्पादन शुल्क लगाने वाला जो विधेयक इस सभा के सामने रखा गया है वह यद्यपि एक मामूली सा विधेयक मालूम होता है, लेकिन वह राष्ट्रीय नीति का एक महत्वपूर्ण प्रश्न उपस्थित करता है। इस सभा ने कई दिन हुए नवीकरण अर्थात् रेशनलाइजेशन और माडर्नाइजेशन के सम्बन्ध में विचार किया था और उस संकल्प पर विचार करते हुए सभा के बहुत से सदस्यों ने विभिन्न विचार प्रकट किये थे। दूसरे मौकों पर भी जो सरकार की तरफ से कुटीरोद्योग के सम्बन्ध में नीति की घोषणा की जाती है, की गई है, उस से स्पष्ट मालूम होता है कि सरकार का भी दिमाग जिस प्रकार से इस सम्बन्ध में साफ होना चाहिये, वह अभी तक नहीं हो पाया है, यद्यपि मुझे यह कहने में कोई संकोच नहीं है कि इधर एक या दो वर्षों से सरकार की नीति कुछ साफ जरूर होती जा रही है।

यह जो विधेयक है वह कल के जरिये से चलने वाले जो उद्योग हैं उन के सम्बन्ध में बड़ा ही महत्वपूर्ण प्रश्न उपस्थित करता है। बीडी का उद्योग असंगठित है, लेकिन और भी बहुत से उद्योग हैं जो इसी तरह से असंगठित हैं। सरकार ने इस बिल के सम्बन्ध में साहस के

[श्री एस० एन० दास]

साथ कदम उठाया हैं। स्वराज्य होने के उपरान्त हम लोग समझते थे कि गांधी जी की विचार-धारा के अनुसार चलने वाली कांग्रेस का शासन जब देश में आयेगा तो हिन्दुस्तान की वर्तमान अवस्था को ध्यान में रखते हुए वह अपनी औद्योगिक नीति को निर्धारित करेगी। लेकिन बहुत दिनों तक विचार की दुविधा में पड़े रहने के कारण सरकार ने इस तरफ अपनी नीति को स्पष्ट नहीं किया फिर भी इस बिल को रखते हुए हमारे उप-वित्त-मंत्री जी ने जिस नीति को अपनाया हैं, मैं उन को उस के लिये बधाई देता हूं।

1 P.M.

अभी हमारी समाजवादी पार्टी के नेता श्री अशोक मेहता ने यह कहा कि इस उद्योग में जो काम करने वाले लोग हैं उन के काम की जो दशा हैं वह बहुत खराब हैं और उन के परिश्रम का शोषण होता हैं। हिन्दुस्तान में जो आज हमारी अर्थ प्रणाली हैं उस के बारे में कोई दो विचार नहीं हैं कि उस में बहुत अंशों तक शोषण होता हैं। जो काम करने वाले लोग हैं उनके परिश्रम का फायदा उठाने वाले दूसरे लोग हैं। यह बात सिर्फ इस उद्योग के सम्बन्ध में ही नहीं हैं। दूसरे भी जितने उद्योग यहां चल रहे हैं चाहे वे छोटे हों या बड़े उन सब में शोषण बहुत हो रहा हैं। इसलिए शोषण का सवाल इस विधेयक पर विचार करते हुए उठता जरूर हैं लेकिन यह समीचीन नहीं हैं। हमने विधान में यह तो किया हैं कि हम हिन्दुस्तान के सभी योग्य शरीर वाले लोगों को निर्वाह योग्य काम देंगे। हम यह जानते हैं कि अभी भी हिन्दुस्तान में करोड़ों लोग ऐसे हैं, देहात में और शहरों में भी, जो काम करना चाहते हैं लेकिन उनको काम नहीं मिलता और चूंकि उनको काम नहीं मिलता इसलिए उनको पूरा भोजन भी नहीं मिलता, जीवन स्तर उठाना तो एक बड़ी बात हैं। हिन्दुस्तान में तो भोजन और कपड़ा का एक जरूरी विषय हैं, वह हम दें। वह हम तभी दे सकते हैं जब हम काम दें। लेकिन हम अपने देश के उद्योगों में बिना किसी बात का विचार किये हुए पश्चिम की नकल करने में लगे हैं और यह सोचते हैं कि कलों के व्यवहार से उत्पादन करने वाले की उत्पादन शक्ति बढ़े, क्योंकि अगर उसकी उत्पादन शक्ति नहीं बढ़ेगी तो उसकी मजदूरी नहीं बढ़ेगी। और जब मजदूरी ऊंची नहीं होगी तो उसका जीवन-स्तर कैसे बढ़ेगा। हमने विधान में इस बात को माना हैं कि हम अपने यहां की जनता का जीवन-स्तर उठायेंगे। लेकिन इसके लिए हमको देखना होगा कि कलों के व्यवहार से उत्पादन बढ़ा कर हम कितने लोगों का जीवन-स्तर बढ़ा सकते हैं। हम तो देश के सारे काम करने वालों के जीवन-स्तर को उठाना चाहते हैं केवल संगठित उद्योगों में काम करने वालों का ही नहीं।

यह जो विधेयक वित्त मंत्री ने हमारे सामने रखा हैं इसके लिए हमारे माननीय सदस्य श्री बर्मन ने कहा हैं कि यदि इसी तरह हिम्मत के साथ सरकार दूसरे ग्रामोद्योगों के लिए भी कार्रवाई करे तो इस देश का बहुत कल्याण हो सकता हैं। परन्तु अध्यक्ष महोदय, जब इस सभा में घानी का और चावल कूटने की मशीन का प्रश्न आया तो उनके सम्बन्ध में सरकार ने जांच करने के लिए एक कमेटी बिठा दी। यह कमेटी बिठाने की जो आदत हैं यह हर सरकार की बहुत पुरानी आदत हैं और यह एक भद्दी आदत हैं। जो बात हम स्पष्ट देखते हैं लेकिन उसके सम्बन्ध में अगर सरकार को कार्रवाई करने की हिम्मत नहीं होती तो वह कमेटी बिठा देती हैं। मैं समझता हूं कि यह पुरानी सरकार की आदत थी और अब इस लोकप्रिय सरकार को यह आदत छोड़ देनी चाहिए। लेकिन मुझे अफसोस के साथ कहना पड़ता हैं कि इस संसद् में और बाहर हम अखबारों में बहुत जोर देते हैं कि हिन्दुस्तान की खास परिस्थितियों में हमको कल कारखानों का उपयोग बहुत धीमे और योजनापूर्वक करना चाहिए और इसका उपयोग करने में बड़ी सावधानी की जरूरत हैं, तो भी सरकार की नजर निहित स्वार्थ की ओर जाती हैं और जो कदम उनको उठाना चाहिए उसको वे बहुत धीमे तौर से उठाते हैं। फिर भी मैं यह

कहूंगा कि इस बिल में सरकार ने जिस सिद्धान्त को अपनाया हैं वह बहुत अच्छा सिद्धान्त हैं ।

यदि हम चाहते हैं कि काम करने वाले की उत्पादन शक्ति बढ़े, तो वह उस समय तक नहीं बढ़ सकती जब तक हम परिश्रम को बचाने वाली कल का प्रयोग न करें । लेकिन साथ ही साथ यह भी देखना हैं कि कोई भी नीति हो या कोई रास्ता हो उसका उपयोग किसी देश की परिस्थिति के अनुकूल होना चाहिए । हिन्दुस्तान की परिस्थिति यह हैं कि यहां पर हमने जो विधान बनाया हैं उसमें हमने यह वायदा किया हैं कि हम हर आदमी को काम देंगे लेकिन सरकार ने अभी तक कोई ऐसा कदम नहीं उठाया हैं कि वह तमाम लोगों को काम दे । मैं बाढ़ के इलाके से आता हूं । वहां पर बहुत सा अनाज भी बांटा जा रहा हैं और जगह जगह से लोगों ने बहुत उदारतापूर्वक कपड़ा आदि भेजा हैं वह भी दिया जा रहा हैं । लेकिन मैं समझता हूं कि यह सब गलत चीज हैं । यह इस राज्य के लिए बहुत लज्जा की बात हैं कि बाहर वाले हमारे लिए हमें सहायता दें, हम उनसे अनाज मांगें और दुनिया भर में इस बात का ढिंढोरा पीटें कि हिन्दुस्तान में गरीब लोग बहुत तबाह हैं । इस लोकप्रिय सरकार के लिए यह लज्जा की बात हैं कि हम बाढ़ पीड़ित लोगों के वास्ते कामों की व्यवस्था नहीं कर सकते और उन्हें सहायता देने के लिये दूसरे देशों का दिया हुआ अनाज, कपड़ा, और डब्बों का दूध स्वीकार करते हैं ।

Shri A. C. Guha: I do not think there has been any appeal for international aid for flood-affected people.

श्री एस० एन० दास : अपील न सही । पर हम आदर के साथ उन चीजों को गृहण तो करते हैं । लेकिन मैं समझता हूं कि गृहण करना भी ठीक नहीं हैं । हम अपने देश के गरीबों को आपत्ति के समय तो क्या साधारण समय में भी खाना कपड़ा नहीं दे पाते हैं । यह हमारे और सरकार के लिए लज्जा का ही विषय हो सकता हैं ।

Shri A. C. Guha: That is simply an international etiquette.

श्री एन० ए० बोरकर (भंडारा) : सभापति जी, इस सभा में जो भाषण हुए उनमें मेरे साथी श्री अशोक मेहता ने कहा कि वे बीड़ी बनाने वालों की कांस्टीट्यूएंसी से आते हैं । लेकिन वे तो केवल वहां से चुनकर आये हैं, पर मैं तो उसी कांस्टीट्यूएंसी में पैदा हुआ हूं और मैं ने दस बरस तक बीड़ी का काम भी किया हैं । इसलिए मैं ने जो बीड़ी बनाने वालों के दुःख दर्द को देखा हैं वह मैं आपके सामने रखूंगा । मुझे ताज्जुब हुआ कि, यहां मशीन से काम करने का श्री अशोक मेहता ने समर्थन किया । वह कहते हैं कि यह काम मोनोपली वालों के हाथ में पड़ गया हैं । यह ठीक हैं कि इस काम में मोनोपली हो गई हैं । वे मध्य प्रदेश में काफी काम कर रहे हैं । मेरा कहना यह हैं कि इन बड़े आदमियों ने लड़ाई के जमाने में बहुत पैसा पैदा किया हैं और वे मशीनें खरीद कर उनसे काम लेंगे और मजदूर पीसे जायंगे । आजकल हमारे देश में बेकारी फैल रही हैं । इस बीड़ी की मशीन के कारण बम्बई में और दूसरी जगह बेकारी फैल रही हैं और आर्डिनेन्स लाने के बाद भी मध्य प्रदेश में और बम्बई में मजदूरों में बेकारी फैल रही हैं । बड़े लोग सोच रहे हैं कि किस तरह से और अच्छी मशीन बनावें और ज्यादा मुनाफा कमायें । वे लोग इसके लिए रास्ता निकाल रहे हैं । यहां जो श्री मेहता ने कहा कि यह मशीन केवल पांच आदमियों का काम करेगी तो यह बात नहीं हैं । यह कहना बिल्कुल गलत हैं । मैं आपके सामने साफ साफ फार्मूला रखना चाहता हूं । एक मजदूर हाथ से एक घंटे में १२५ बीड़ी बनाता हैं और गवर्नमेंट की तरफ से कहा गया हैं कि मशीन १५०० बनाती हैं । आप बीड़ी एन्क्वायरी कमेटी की रिपोर्ट देखें और बम्बई की और मध्यप्रदेश की कमेटी की रिपोर्ट देखें । दोनों कमेटियों ने जांच करके बताया हैं कि मशीन से एक घंटे में १०,००० बीड़ी बनती हैं । और एक आदमी एक घंटे में १२५ बीड़ी बनाता हैं । जब यह हालत हैं तो आप हिसाब लगा लीजिये कि मशीन लगाने से कितने आदमी बेकार हो जायंगे । मैं समझता हूं कि सरकार के जो आंकड़े हैं कि इससे ६५ पर सैंट आदमी बेकार

[श्री एन० ए० बोरकर]

होंगे यह सही नहीं है । मैं कहता हूं कि ६५ पर सेंट आदमी बेकार हो जायंगे । आज वैसे ही बेकारी बढ़ रही है । अगर इन मजदूरों में और बेकारी पैदा हो जायगी तो इस समस्या को हल करना मुश्किल हो जायगा ।

दूसरा सवाल यह है । आपने देखा होगा कि बुनकरों को बेकारी से बचाने के लिए हम तरह तरह की योजनायें बना रहे हैं और फिर भी उनकी दशा में सुधार नहीं हो रहा है और उनकी बेकारी की समस्या हल नहीं हो रही है । तो आज यह हालत है कि हम उनकी बेकारी को दूर नहीं कर पा रहे हैं । इसलिए अगर इस क्षेत्र में नयी बेकारी की समस्या पैदा हो जायगी तो उसको हल करना कितना कठिन हो जायगा । बुनकरों की बेकारी दूर करने के लिए आपने मिल के कपड़े पर टैक्स लगाया है । बीड़ी के मामले में आपको बेरोजगारी को बचाने का सवाल तो करना है । इस मशीन से उनमें बेरोजगारी पैदा हो जायगी । इसलिए मैं चाहता हूं कि यह मशीन बुरी है और यह न आवे । यह मशीन का जो काम है वह एकदम बंद हो जाय । आपने देखा होगा कि एक मजदूर यदि बीड़ी बनाता है तो उसकी बीवी बच्चे भी घरेलू तौर से उस काम में हाथ बंटाते हैं, वे भी उस उद्योग में थोड़ा बहुत काम करते हैं और मुझे यह देख कर बड़ा ताज्जुब होता है कि वह सरकार जो घरेलू उद्योगों को प्रोत्साहन देना चाहती है, बढ़ावा देना चाहती है और गरीब लोगों का स्तर ऊपर उठाने के हेतु बड़ी लम्बी लम्बी बातें करती है, वह मशीन लगाने की बात करती है और एक्साइज ड्यूटी सिर्फ तीन रुपये प्रति हजार बीड़ी पर लगायी गई है जो कि बिल्कुल नाकाफी है और ज्यादा लगायी जानी चाहिये । मैं आपको अभी बतलाऊंगा एक बीड़ी वाले को एक हजार बीड़ी के ऊपर कितना मुनाफा मिलता है । मैं स्वयं एक बीड़ी बनाने वाला हूं और अपने अनुभव के आधार पर कहता हूं कि लेबर चार्जेज के तौर पर मजदूरों को एक रुपया दो आने देना पड़ता है और तम्बाकू और पत्ते पर सात आने खर्च आता है और उसके लेवियल और ट्रान्सपोर्ट आदि पर एक आना आता है जिसका मतलब यह हुआ कि एक हजार बीड़ी तैयार करने में कुल लागत एक रुपया दस आने आती है, जब कि उसकी सेलिंग प्राइस चार रुपये दस आने होती है, तो इस तरह आप देखेंगे कि उनको तीन रुपये प्रति हजार मुनाफा मिलता है, अब आप समझ सकते हैं कि जब एक आदमी के बीड़ी बनाने पर तीन रुपये मुनाफा निकलता है तो एक घंटे में जब दस हजार बीड़ियां बनेंगी तो आप हिसाब लगा सकते हैं कि कितना नफा बढ़ जायगा और यह जो आपने तीन रुपये रक्खा है मैं समझता हूं कि ये जो पूंजीपति लोग हैं और जिन्होंने पैसा कमाया है उन लोगों को सहायता देने के लिये आप ने जान कर तीन रुपये रक्खा है, मैं चाहूंगा कि इसको ज्यादा किया जाय, दस रुपये तक इसको बढ़ाया जाय और अगर आप ऐसा करेंगे तो मैं समझता हूं कि यह जो मशीन रूपी छुरी हमारे गरीब मजदूरों के गले पर चलने जा रही है वह बेचारे उससे बच जायेंगे ।

दूसरी चीज मैं यह अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि गवर्नमेंट ने कोई फर्क नहीं बताया है कि मशीन से बनायी गयी और हाथ से बनी बीड़ी में यह फर्क रहेगा । मेरी समझ में फर्क रहना बहुत जरूरी है, अन्यथा यह बीड़ी के बनाने वाले बड़े बड़े लोग बहुत चालाक हैं और एक्साइज ड्यूटी से बचने के लिये वे अपने कारखानों में मशीन भी लगायेंगे और साथ में कुछ हाथ से बीड़ी बनाने वाले भी रक्खेंगे और चूंकि आपने कोई फर्क नहीं रक्खा है इसलिये ज्यादा मुनाफा कमाने के लिये और आपकी एक्साइज ड्यूटी से अपने को बचाने के लिये मशीन से बनी हुई बीड़ी को हाथ से बनायी गयी बीड़ी बतायेंगे । इसलिये यह बहुत जरूरी है कि बीड़ी मालिकों को ऐसी चालाकी करने का अवसर न दिया जाय और हाथ से बनी बीड़ी और मशीन से तैयार की गयी बीड़ी में कोई फर्क जरूर रखना चाहिये जिससे साफ साफ मालूम हो सके कि यह हाथ की बनी है या मशीन से तैयार की गयी है । मैं आपको कहां तक उनकी चालाकी बतलाऊं । मिनिमम वेजेज एक्ट में बीड़ी

मजदूरों की मजदूरी अर्बन एरिया में एक रुपया दो आने रक्खी गयी और रूरल में दो आने कम फिक्स की गयी थी तो बीड़ी मालिकों ने ये दो आने बचाने के लिये अरबन एरिया में उनकी जितनी बीड़ी फैक्टरीज थीं उनको बंद करके देहात में पहुंचा दिया गया। तो जहां ऐसी हालत हो वहां मशीन से बनी बीड़ी और हाथ से बनी बीड़ी में फर्क रखना बहुत जरूरी है, नहीं तो बीड़ी मालिक चालबाजी करने से बाज नहीं आयेंगे। मेरा इस सम्बन्ध में सरकार को सुझाव है कि एक सैपरेट एक्साइज कमिश्नर, एक डिपार्टमेंट बीड़ी के लिये अलग बनाया जाय और उनके रीजनल आफिसेज हर जगह खोले जायं और इंस्पेक्टर मुकर्रर किये जायं जो कि बीड़ी वालों पर नजर रक्खें कि वे कोई गड़बड़ या चालबाजी तो नहीं कर रहे हैं। इसके अलावा मैं आपको बताऊं कि ये बीड़ी मालिक और क्या करते हैं। श्री अशोक मेहता ने अभी बतलाया कि केवल बीस, पच्चीस परसेंट बीड़ी को मालिक लोग बेकार ठहरा देते हैं और जिसकी मजदूरी मजदूरों को नहीं मिलती है, लेकिन मैं उनको बतलाऊं कि करीब आधी या तीन चौथाई बीड़ी बेकार कर दी जाती है और जिसका नतीजा यह होता है कि उस बेचारे गरीब मजदूर की सब मजदूरी पानी में चली जाती है। बीड़ी मालिक उस बेकार की हुई बीड़ी को फेंकता नहीं है, काट कर फेंकता नहीं है, बल्कि उसको भी बेचता है और मुनाफा कमाता है और हम देखते हैं कि ऐसी बेकार जाने वाली बीड़ी पर मुनाफा लेकर गोंदिया (मध्य-प्रदेश) में एक बिल्डिंग खड़ी की गयी है जिसका नाम बीड़ी छांटन बिल्डिंग रक्खा गया है और आज भी हमारे इस आजाद हिन्दुस्तान में इस तरह के पैसे से बनायी हुई बिल्डिंग अपना सिर ऊंचा किये हुए खड़ी है और इसलिये मैं सरकार को सावधान करना चाहता हूं कि वे पूरी सतर्कता से काम लें ताकि बीड़ी मालिकों को गड़बड़ी करने का मौका न मिले और इसी हेतु मैंने सुझाव दिया है कि एक एक्साइज कमिश्नर मुकर्रर किया जाय, अलग रीजनल आफिसेज और इंस्पेक्टर्स हों ताकि वे इस उद्योग की ठीक से देखभाल करें और जिससे मजदूरों का हित सुरक्षित रह सके। मेरे कई पूर्व वक्ताओं ने कॉटेज इंडस्ट्रीज के नाम पर बीड़ी उद्योग को बचाने के लिये कोऑपरेटिव बेसिस पर इसे चलाने की सलाह दी है लेकिन यहां भी मैं आपको बतलाना चाहता हूं कि बीड़ी के ये पूंजीपति लोग नहीं चाहते कि यह मार्केट उनके हाथ से निकल कर किसी कोऑपरेटिव सोसाइटी के पास चला जाय और वे नहीं चाहते कि जो मक्खन और मलाई उन्हें मिलता है वह किसी दूसरे को मिले। आज पूरा बीड़ी मार्केट उनके कब्जे में है और मैं श्री अशोक मेहता से पूछना चाहता हूं कि अगर हमने कोऑपरेटिव बेसिस पर बीड़ी बनाई भी तो अगर उसके लिये मार्केट न रहे तो उसको बेचेंगे कहां ? उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, इस सम्बन्ध में मैं आपको अपना अनुभव बतलाता हूं। हमने एक्सपेरीमेंट के तौर पर कोऑपरेटिव बेसिस पर बीड़ी बनाई, काफी खूबसूरत थी लेकिन कम्पिटीशन में वह नहीं आ सकी क्योंकि कुछ चन्द आदमी मार्केट कैप्चर किये हुए हैं, मार्केट के अन्दर मोनोपली उनकी है, कोई नया आदमी बाजार में घुसने नहीं देते और उनके रहते कोई नया आदमी उस ट्रेड में पनप नहीं सकता। मध्यप्रदेश में मैं आपको बतलाऊं कि जहां पर इस बीड़ी बनाने की मशीन का उपयोग भी नहीं किया गया तो भी करीब पचास हजार मजदूर बेकार हैं और हमें उनकी तरफ ध्यान देना चाहिये और ऐसा प्रबन्ध करना चाहिये ताकि उनको रोजगार मिल सके और यदि आप वास्तव में कॉटेज इंडस्ट्री, घरेलू काम को प्रोत्साहन देना चाहते हैं तो ये तीन रुपये जो आप एक्साइज ड्यूटी लगाना चाहते हैं यह बहुत कम है इसको बढ़ा कर दस रुपये कीजिये। एक घंटे में वहां मशीन की सहायता से दस हजार बीड़ियां तैयार हो सकेंगी। यह ड्यूटी जो है यह ज्यादा की जाय, दस रुपये तक बढ़ायी जाय ताकि मजदूरों की जो बेकारी की समस्या है उसकी हम रोकथाम कर सकें। बेकारी को रोकने के लिये सरकार को कड़ा कदम उठाने को सदैव तैयार रहना चाहिये।

[श्री एन० ए० बोरकर]

अन्त में मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि हमारे बीड़ी मजदूरों की जो हालत है उसको दुरुस्त करने के लिये सरकार को विशेष कदम उठाना है और प्रयत्न करना है और सरकार के केवल एक दो बीड़ी इंडस्ट्रियलिस्ट्स से सलाह लेने से काम नहीं चलेगा। मैं सरकार को बतलाऊं कि हांलाकि आपने फैक्टरी एक्ट लागू किया हुआ है लेकिन बीड़ी मालिक उसमें भी चालाकी से अपने को बचा ले जाते हैं। अगर मालिक लोग यह बतला दें कि उनके पास बीस मजदूर काम करते हैं तो वह फैक्टरी एक्ट के अन्दर आ जाते हैं और इसलिये वे उससे अपने को बचाने के लिये केवल सत्तरह आदमी के नाम लिखा देते हैं, इसलिये आपको इस ओर ध्यान देना है ताकि ये लोग इस तरह गड़बड़ न कर सकें। अन्त में मैं और अधिक न कह कर सिर्फ यही कहूंगा कि मैंने जो सुझाव दिये हैं उन पर सरकार सहानुभूति से विचार करेगी और उनको मंजूर करेगी ताकि हमारे देश के छै लाख बीड़ी मजदूर अपनी जिन्दगी अमन व चैन से बिता सकें और बेकारी का संकट उन पर न आये।

Shri K. P. Tripathi (Darrang): Sir, I rise to support this Bill. I was following with interest the speech made by Shri Asoka Mehta and I was surprised that he should have struck a different note. There has been universal support to this Bill. The Communist Party has also supported this, but with this demur that total protection would have been better if this machine could have been banned. I understand that the Government have no power to ban it. So far as machine from outside India is concerned, the Government have power to regulate and control it and therefore, they can prevent foreign machines from coming in. But, with regard to local manufactures and local inventions, Government are incapable of preventing them and therefore, they are forced to do it by another method and that method is by way of this tax set on *biris* made on machine.

I welcome the Bill for the principle involved in it. The principle is to prevent unemployment the machine itself is being banned. This is a great victory for labour in a country like India where there is so much teeming populating and no work to offer. I think this is a principle which every country in Asia having a tremendous teeming population shall have to follow. The principle was first decided in the case of the handloom industry, where a cess was imposed on mill-made cloth, so that the cottage industry might prosper. These two things have been decided by this Government, and the principles involved in them are so great and far-reaching that I think the entire cottage industry sector might feel jubilant over it.

Very interesting arguments were offered in the discussion. Mr. Asoka Mehta said: let us expand the market. Where is the market to be expanded? If it is to be expanded, it should be either internal or external market. You have heard that Pakistan has banned Indian *biris*. Therefore the external market is contracting and not expanding. So far as the Indian market is concerned it is being limited by the cheap cigarettes. My friend comes from a *biri* area. I come from an area where *biri* is consumed. I told one *biri* seller: we are trying to raise the wages of workers, and that will increase your *biri* sales. He said: as soon as a worker's wages are raised he turns over to cigarettes and does not continue in a *biri* area. The result is that the market for *biris* is so limited. If the economic condition of the workers improves, the consumption of *biris* is not likely to improve accordingly.

It is not merely a question of taste, as Mr. Asoka Mehta said. It is a question of fashion which is the determining factor here. Therefore the market for *biris* is limited.

Can the market be expanded? The suggestion is that if the machine comes in, one-eighth of the workers will remain and the rest will be thrown out. Because, if the consumption of *biris* continues to be what it is, only one-eighth of the workers involved at

present will be able to produce the entire requirement which the full number are producing at present.

I have already shown that the market cannot be expanded. So a camouflage was brought in namely co-operative marketing. Co-operative marketing is a very difficult affair. If we undertake it today, it may take five to six years before it is done. And within that time the entire sector of this industry will be completely rationalised. That means that all these workers will be thrown out, only a very small percentage being retained.

The Government was faced with this dilemma. After all, it was an emergency, a crisis. Suddenly, the machine has come and the workers need protection at this hour. It will not do for us to say that five years hence we will be organising co-operatives completely. According to Mr. Asoka Mehta's own logic, it is incumbent that protection should be given here and co-operatives and other things organised later on, so that when they are available the co-operatives might be utilised. I do not understand the logic. Mr. Asoka Mehta supported the other day the rationalisation of the jute and textile industries.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy (Mysore): Only one.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: The jute industry. There also the question was how to expand the market. The question of markets is being thought of in the light of colonial experience. You know that these machines expanded when there was the colonial empire, to support them. There is no colonial empire today. All the countries are becoming independent today, and the relation between country and country is not guided by colonial power but by the balance of payments position. It is not as if a country can export jute, for instance, to any extent that it likes. It is governed by the balance of payments position. If I purchase Rs. 100 worth of goods from you, you also purchase only Rs. 100 worth of things from me. In this context the purchasing capacity and the balance of payments position of any nation, which depends on the export of only one commodity is most dangerous for that country. In the last conference in the Plantations Committee it was decided that every country depending on plantations should bear in mind that it shall not depend on its export of one commodity alone. Therefore variegation of commodities for export is necessary. Therefore, merely on jute Pakistan will not be able to stand. And she is floating her jute industry only now. She will be in a competitive position four or five years hence.

We are not saying that for all time rationalisation is to be banned. Rationalisation is to be banned under particular stress of circumstances. What is the circumstances today? My friend Shri Chaliha was quoting certain figures, about growing unemployment. I was looking into the National Income Committee Report. What does it say? The percentage of self-supporting persons was 29 in 1951 and dependents 10·6; compared to the figures of 7·5 per cent. dependents and 31·1 per cent. self-supporting persons in 1941. So there has been a shift in the population, of over 3 per cent., from self-supporting to the non-self-supporting sector. What does it mean? Three per cent. employed in the entire industrial sector, a population equivalent to it, has shifted from the self-supporting to the non-self-supporting sector. That is, it has become dependent.

So the population is gradually facing more and more unemployment. In these circumstances every intelligent man will admit that this is a time when national policies should be guided by the problem of employment. That is to say, how to provide more employment is the problem of this hour. May be, when we have enough employment, we may shift over to the question of how to provide more wages.

I was looking through the cottage industries list And I was surprised

[Shri K. P. Tripathi]

to find that in a large number of industries either the annual income per worker has gone down or the number of persons employed has gone down. I will read some of them: Grains and oilseeds, vegetable oils, tobacco, textiles otherwise unspecified, leather, manufacture of metal products, iron and steel, transport implements, machinery, basic industrial chemicals, manufacture of chemical products, products of petroleum and coal, brick, tiles, etc., cement pipes.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is it necessary to read the whole list?

Shri K. P. Tripathi: It is a very large list. It shows on the whole that the earning per worker per year has decreased in the entire cottage industry sector. Therefore the purchasing power in it is constantly going down. It shows that there are two problems before the country today: one, how to increase the purchasing power of the rural and other sector; secondly, how to improve employment.

It will be realised that Government decided on this policy and a resolution was passed at the Congress Committee last time that the resources of the country should be utilised for the purpose not of rationalisation but for the purpose of new industries. By the same logic it must be said that the resources of the country, which are limited, should be utilised for the purpose of floating new industries and not for rationalisation of existing industries. Rs. 300 crores have been provided by the Plan in this private industry sector. If in the private industry sector for these Rs. 300 crores new industries are floated it will create new employment. If these Rs. 300 crores are utilised for the purpose of rationalisation of the existing industries, then the employment will be reduced.

My friend Mr. Gurupadaswamy was saying that rationalisation has brought in more employment in the textile industry. I find that in 1939 there were 389 mills and they were employing 4,41,000 workers. In 1952 the number of mills has increased from 289 to 445, but the employment has declined to 4,25,000 workers. This is the way in which rationalisation reduces rather than increases, employment. That is the accepted theory. I do not know from where the fine theory of increase in employment as a result of rationalisation was found by my friend Mr. Gurupadaswamy.

You get foreign markets for which there is no charm today under the existing conditions.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: I was talking about the *biri* industry and my friend is referring to the textile industry. He is misquoting.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: I am sorry if I am misquoting but somebody must have quoted. What I am trying is not to demolish Shri Gurupadaswamy but demolish the argument and if the argument was not put forward by him, it was put forward by somebody else and I stand corrected.

So, what I say is that the whole point in the present context of our economy is that there shall be expansion of employment and for that purpose I say that all available resources be diverted to production and increase of employment and when the times change—may be five, six or ten years—then it will be for us to switch over to rationalisation and I may assure this House that within these five or six years there is going to be no crash either in the textile or jute industry or in the *biri* industry.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad (Purnea *cum* Santal Parganas): There will be a big crash in the jute industry.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: My friend says that there will be a big crash in jute industry. He was not here. I was trying to convince my hon. friend Mr. Gurupadaswamy about the *biri* industry.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Yes, we are concerned with *biri* and not with jute.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: Therefore, Sir, I will not reply to the question of jute which I reserve for replying to later on.

Shri A. M. Thomas (Ernakulam): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, although the hon. Minister has characterised the Bill as a very simple one, the broad principle involved, the principle of rationalisation has also been discussed in some detail and many members have spoken on this Bill. Sir, I would, first of all, while welcoming the Bill—since it has been anticipated that there will be great deal of unemployment among the *biri* workers—ask for some clarification from the hon. Minister why there was so much hurry in promulgating an ordinance. Were we having extraordinary circumstances as to justify an ordinance levying Rs. 3/- per thousand *biris*? The hon. Minister in his speech has stated that the mechanisation is in its experimental stage and so many *biris*, which have been manufactured by a particular machine, have not even been purchased by the consumers, so that there has been consumer resistance to the *biris* manufactured by these machines and the hon. Minister has also stated that he is not now in a position to state what exactly will be the labour force that will be displaced by the mechanisation of this industry. So, I would submit, Sir, you would require a more detailed study just to consider the *pros and cons* of the introduction of mechanisation in this industry. Several members have stated that it would be a very hard day if labour is displaced in lakhs. I agree. I would also urge the other side of the picture. The *biri* is a poor man's luxury. My hon. friend Shri Barman stated that it is injurious to health.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Poor man's vice?

Shri U. M. Trivedi (Chittor): Vice or fashion?

Shri A. M. Thomas: But we are all aware of the fact that our domestic servants go underground to smoke a *biri*. Is it our idea just to prohibit this vice altogether or just to increase the consumption of *biris*? Fears have been expressed on the floor of this House that there is great competition for this *biri* industry from cheap cigarettes. This is an industry in which India has, so to say, a monopoly. It is a question that we have to seriously consider, whether we should conserve this industry and we should try to increase the market, both internal and external, of this *biri*.

Now the hon. Minister has stated that the ordinary cost of production of thousand *biris* will come to only Rs. 1-14-0. Nevertheless, the Government have thought fit to levy a duty of Rs. 3/- per thousand. That virtually amounts to totally banning this machine. I would ask whether there was any justification for imposing such a very high duty and totally ban this machine altogether. I would submit, Sir, that Shri Asoka Mehta has approached this question in a very dispassionate manner. He has stated, though he has not exactly used those words, that protective levy could have been more understandable than a prohibitive levy like this which results in a total banning of this machine altogether. The person, who has discovered this machine, has circulated a pamphlet. I think several Members of this House have got copies of that pamphlet. He is, of course, an interested person. All the same, he has raised certain very interesting questions which, I believe, the hon. Minister will be answering in the course of his reply. He has stated that:

> "An introduction of *bidis* through foreign travellers, as an Indian smoke, has attracted a new foreign market in European countries to the extent of a crore of rupees only last year. If *bidis* are produced mechanically, untouched by hands under hygienic

[Shri A. M. Thomas]

and sanitary conditions, in uniform shape, size and quality with perfect air-draught system, they shall find a ready sale throughout the world and as such shall amply prove hard and soft currency-earner to our nation."

Sir, I would ask the hon. Minister whether the Government have seriously considered this aspect of the question. If you want to expand the foreign market, as suggested by Shri Asoka Mehta, in order that the cottage industry producer may not be affected, we can subsidise his product. I would like to know whether the Government has considered this aspect of the question. And then, it has been stated that there are as many as six lakhs of workers engaged in this industry. I should think that more people are engaged. In the hon. Minister's speech a break-up of the figures in the various States has been mentioned and I understand that Travancore-Cochin is not one of the States which the hon. Minister has considered as one in which *biri* workers are engaged on a very extensive scale. Coming from that State I would say that very many *biri* workers are scattered throughout the length and breadth of the State and every third or fourth shop that we find is that of a *biri* vendor or a *biri* manufacturer. I should think the statistics quoted by the Government are not correct. They are wrong on the face of it because I think that there is quite a good number of workers, it may come even to a lakh or more, in Travancore-Cochin itself. In any case I should think that the figures given with regard to the persons engaged in the industry are not quite correct. As has been pointed out, several middlemen are engaged in employing these *biri* workers and they get a substantial portion of the profits. I would ask the Government whether the Government has taken any serious measure or has ever thought of the problem, so that the labourer himself may get the benefit of his labour, by eliminating middleman's profits as far as possible. I would also ask Government whether they have considered the recommendations of a committee which the Government themselves appointed as early as 1944. There was a committee appointed by the Government of India on 12th February, 1944 to investigate and report on the conditions of labour in the *biri*, cigar and cigarette industry. I do not know whether Government have considered the recommendations of that committee and if so what action was taken by them. I presume that no action has been taken on that report.

I do not want to add anything more. I would say that a prohibitive duty like this that results in the total banning of machinery is not justified in the circumstances. Especially so when the Government themselves have admitted that it is still in the experimental stage and it is too early to say how much labour will be displaced by the introduction of this labour-saving machine. Shri Asoka Mehta has mentioned that it will take a long number of years to introduce these machines on a large scale. As such, I should say that the Government ought to have equipped themselves with more facts and figures to introduce such a measure; far less to resort to an ordinance. In any view of the matter, I would suggest that we should be careful in levying a duty which will ban this machine altogether. We should adopt by way of abundant caution, a measure which will be a protective duty, which will not displace the cottage industry labour on a mass scale.

श्री पी० एन० राजभोज (शोलापुर---- रक्षित---- अनुसूचित जातियां) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, श्री बोरकर ने जो एक्साइज ड्यूटी को बढ़ा कर दस रुपये किये जाने का सुझाव दिया है, मैं उससे पूर्णतया सहमत हूं। इस बीड़ी उद्योग में हमारे शेडयूल्ड कास्ट के मजदूर लोग काफी तादाद में हैं और सरकार का यह देखना कर्त्तव्य है कि

मशीन लगाने से कहीं उनमें बेकारी तो नहीं बढ़ जायेगी और बेकारी को रोकने में अगर हम दस रुपया ड्यूटी कर दें तो मैं समझता हूं कि बेकारी को रोकने में हमें मदद मिलेगी । आज उन बेचारे गरीब मजदूरों की बड़ी शोचनीय अवस्था है और चन्द कैपिटलिस्ट लोगों का उन पर शिकंजा है और मैं उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, आपकी मार्फत से महात्मा गांधी का नाम लेने वाले और खद्दर पहनने वाले लोगों का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूं कि आज आपके आजादी के जमाने में इस तरह उन गरीबों पर अत्याचार और जुल्म होते हैं और आज जो वहां पर बीड़ी छांटन बिल्डिंग बनी है वह उस एक्सप्लायटेशन और चोरबाजारी का सबूत है कि किस तरह से बीड़ी मालिक हमारे गरीब लोगों को चूसते हैं और धोखेबाजी करते हैं । गवर्नमेंट कुछ कानून उनकी हालत सुधारने के वास्ते बनाती भी हैं तो उन पर ठीक से अमल नहीं होता । बीड़ी उद्योग के अलावा मैं पूछना चाहता हूं कि आपने लेदर इंडस्ट्री को प्रोत्साहन देने के लिये क्या किया ? हैंड वीविंग के बारे में तो आपने थोड़ा एक कानून बना भी दिया । देखा यह जाता है कि जहां जहां गवर्नमेंट का लाभ होता है और जहां अपना स्वार्थ होता है वहां वहां वह आवश्यक सुधार करती है लेकिन जहां हमारे मजदूरों का सवाल आता है वहां स्कीमें और प्लान तो गवर्नमेंट बना देती है लेकिन उन पर ठीक से अमल नहीं होता और जिसका नतीजा यह होता है कि वह सारे उनके प्लान और स्कीमें धरी रह जाती हैं और मजदूरों का कोई भला नहीं होता । स्कीमें बहुत आप बनाते हैं लेकिन वे अमल में नहीं आतीं ।

अब यह जो बीड़ी उद्योग में मशीन लगाने की बात है इससे बड़े बड़े बीड़ी मालिकों को, कालाबाजार करने वाले लोगों को लाभ होगा और आज भी यह लोग भारी मुनाफा कमा रहे हैं । भंडारा में हमारे बहुत से शेडयूल्ड कास्ट के मजदूर लोग इस बीड़ी उद्योग में लगे हुए हैं, ये बीड़ी मालिक उनको एक्सप्लायेट करते हैं और जैसा कि अभी मेरे दोस्त बोरकर ने बतलाया कि यह बीड़ी छांटन जो मालिक लोग करते हैं इससे मजदूरों की मजदूरी मारी जाती है लेकिन मालिक लोग उस बीड़ी को बेकार नहीं करते उसे बेच कर मुनाफा कमाते हैं और आज इस अन्याय और चालबाजी के प्रतीक स्वरूप बीड़ी छांटन बिल्डिंग खड़ी हुई है । दूसरे यह जो बीड़ी में ठेकेदारी पद्धति है इससे भी हमारे मजदूर भाइयों को नुकसान होता है । मालिक लोग जो हमारे लोगों पर जुल्म करते हैं और तरह तरह की तकलीफें देते हैं उनके लिये गवर्नमेंट को सोच विचार करना चाहिये और आवश्यक कदम उठाने चाहियें । मेरा अन्देशा है कि अगर पूरे भारतवर्ष में बीड़ी मशीन लग गयीं तो करीब करीब तीन, चार लाख मजदूर बेकार हो जायेंगे, इसलिये सरकार को बेकारी को रोकने के लिये उपाय सोचना चाहिये, यह बेकारी का मसला बहुत पेचीदा है और बीड़ी उद्योग में जो लाखों हमारे गरीब भाई लगे हैं उनको जीवित रखने के लिये एक अलग से बिल पास करने की जरूरत है । मौजूदा बिल को पास करने से पहले इस पर पबलिक की राय लेना जरूरी है क्योंकि आप जो करने जा रहे हैं उससे मजदूरों में बेकारी पैदा होगी, अनएम्पलायमेंट की प्राब्लम और एक्यूट हो जायगी । बीड़ी उद्योग के अलावा यह जो हमारी लेदर इंडस्ट्री है इसकी तरफ भी सरकार को ध्यान देना चाहिये, मुझे दुःख है कि हमारी सरकार कहती तो है कि हम कॉटेज इंडस्ट्रीज को अपने देश में बढ़ावा देना चाहते हैं लेकिन उसके लिये वह ठीक से काम नहीं करती है । सरकार की ओर से प्रोपेगेंडा किया जाता है कि हम यह कर रहे हैं और वह कर रहे हैं लेकिन उनके बनाये हुए प्लानों और स्कीमों पर अमल ठीक से नहीं होता है । यह ठीक है कि आपने मिनिमम वेजेज एक्ट बनाया हुआ है लेकिन वह अमल में नहीं आता है क्योंकि हमारी गवर्नमेंट बड़े बड़े जो कैपिटलिस्ट होते हैं उनकी मदद करने को तैयार रहती है और इसलिये यह और दूसरे कानून ठीक से अमल में नहीं आ पाते.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: This is not a general discussion of labour policy. The hon. Member is going on with a general discussion of labour policy.

[Mr. Deputy-Speaker]

Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes etc., and not speaking on *biris*.

श्री पी० एन० राजभोज : आप ठीक कहते हैं लेकिन दूसरे मेम्बर जो बोले हैं उन्होंने भी दूसरे दूसरे प्वायंट्स को टच किया है । मैं यह बतलाना चाहता हूं कि हमारे गरीब भाइयों पर क्या क्या अन्याय होता है और सरकार का यह कर्त्तव्य है कि वह उनकी दशा सुधारने के लिये प्रत्येक संभव उपाय करे । मसलन् बीड़ी उद्योग में काम करने वाले मजदूर बारह बारह घंटे रोजाना काम करते हैं तो उनके काम के घंटों के बारे में सरकार की ओर से कोई नियंत्रण रहना चाहिये जिससे उनसे ज्यादा काम न लिया जा सके । इसके अलावा इस उद्योग में जो आठ आठ और दस दस वर्ष के लड़के काम करते हैं उनके लिये भी कोई रिस्ट्रिक्शन होना चाहिये । लेकिन आजकल तो अंधेर हो रहा है, बातें तो बहुत लम्बी लम्बी की जाती हैं लेकिन वास्तव में होता कुछ नहीं है और हालत यह हो रही है कि अंधा आटा गूंधे और कुत्ता खाय वाली कहावत चरितार्थ हो रही है । सरकार को इस दिशा में अमली कदम उठाना चाहिये और बेकारी को रोकने की दिशा में सरकार को एक्साइज ड्यूटी और ज्यादा लगाना चाहिये । सरकार को ऐसा प्रबन्ध करना चाहिये जिससे मजदूरों के ऊपर जो अन्याय होता है वह बंद हो । मेरा सुझाव सरकार को यह है कि शेडयूल्ड कास्ट के बारे में और मजदूरों के हितों की रक्षा करने के लिये एक अलग डिपार्टमेंट होना चाहिये जो कि इस काम को हाथ में ले । आज स्टेट गवर्नमेंट और सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट में स्कीम्स को इम्पलीमेंट करने के बारे में कोआपरेशन नहीं होता, सरकार को देखना चाहिये कि उनके बीच में अटमोस्ट सहयोग हो । इस बिल में जो मशीन लगाने की व्यवस्था है उससे मेरा विरोध है और उसको बंद करने की आवश्यकता है, मशीन की इस उद्योग में कोई आवश्यकता नहीं है । बस इतना कह कर मैं अपनी बात खत्म करता हूं ।

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I will call the other hon. Members on the clauses of the Bill. Now, the hon. Minister.

Shri A. C. Guha: Several Members have taken objection to my describing the Bill as a "very simple" Bill. In fact, the Bill was a really simple one when it was introduced before the House.

Shri Achuthan (Crangannur): Will it bring any harm to employment? That is the only question.

Shri A. C. Guha: I do not know whether at the end of this general discussion, I can yet describe this Bill as a simple one, because so many questions have been introduced in the discussion and naturally it has become somewhat complicated. My one difficulty is that I have to reply to the motion of Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy for circulation and also to the debate. First. I should like to reply to the motion of Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy.

I hardly find any reason for circulating this one clause Bill.

As one hon. Member has described it, it would almost be something ridiculous to circulate a Bill of one clause, and which is in vogue in the country from 30th July as an ordinance. The people already know this. The workers know this. This manufacturers know this. The *biri* consumers also know this. So, there is hardly anyone interested in this matter who does not know about the provisions of this Bill. Moreover, before passing this ordinance, Government consulted the State Governments and considered the matter in all its aspects.

I think I should also mention here that on the 14th May, 1953, in this House there was a half an hour debate demanding almost immediate action—stopping the introduction of mechanisation in the *biri* industry. That is just one year and four months back. The demand was voiced in this House to stop introduction of machines in the *biri* industry. And I find in the debates all sections, all parties made

similar demands. When I was reading this debate I was rather surprised that one Shri A. M. Thomas on that day demanded that the Government should take action before the situation got out of control, and he was very much perturbed about the unemployment question being made still more serious in his own State by the introduction of mechanisation in the *biri* industry. He almost demanded complete prohibition of these machines.

Shri V. P. Nayar (Chirayinkil): Why almost?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What does the hon. Minister mean by "one A. M. Thomas"? The hon. Member is here.

Shri A. M. Thomas: I now stand for protective and not altogether prohibitive duty.

Shri A. C. Guha: Anyhow, this matter was before this House for some time and before the country, and it was sufficiently discussed in this House on several occasions, and so I do not think the House would agree, nor can I recommend to the House, that this Bill may be sent for circulation.

Then, I refer to the points raised. Another thing which is surprising is that Mr. Thomas, Mr. Asoka Mehta and I think one or two other Members also have mentioned about foreign markets and the possibility of expanding foreign markets; and they suggested that there might be rebate given to *biris* to be exported. I should like to mention here that excise is collected only on the commodity consumed within the country, and not on any commodity exported. We have got excise duties on so many other commodities, textiles, sugar and many other things, but that duty is collected only on that portion of the commodity which is consumed inside the country, and no excise duty is ever collected on anything to be exported. So, those Members have simply been under some mis-apprehension that this excise duty is any way likely to hamper the growth of foreign markets.

Much has been said about the foreign market also. Pakistan is not going to oblige us by opening their market for *biri* manufactured in India. They have practically in a way, banned the import of *biri* from India, and our export has practically dwindled down to an insignificant number, and I can say there is no market in Pakistan for our *biris*. The only market now is Ceylon, and I do not think there will be no further market in the near future. At least we have not any such prospect now. Mr. Thomas read out from that pamphlet given by the manufacturer of the machine that if machanisation in the *biri* industry is introduced, it might open up new markets for our smoking articles manufactured out of tobacco. We shall always welcome it if mechanised *biri* can find foreign market. This Bill is in no way to stand in its way. Not only this excise duty of Rs. 3 per thousand, but also the excise duty that is generally collected on the tobacco used for *biri*, that also is given as rebate for any *biri* to be exported. So, there may not be any apprehension in the minds of the Members that this Bill will in any way hamper the expansion of our foreign markets.

Then, Sir, I do not know whether I should enter into other controversial matters,—the industrial revolution and so many other things. I can only say that the sufferings which the industrial revolution in England or in Western European countries produced then, just a century ago, need not be repeated in any country now. There has been industrialisation within this century in many countries and it cannot be said that the human suffering, that was almost inevitably connected with industrialisation a century ago in Western European countries, was repeated in any other country which has industrialised within this century. So, even if we industrialise, Members should not apprehend that the human sufferings involved in that process in England and other European countries would be repeated or the Government would allow it to be repeated.

[Shri A. C. Guha]

Then, many Members have raised some points regarding cottage industries, and I think those points are really relevant to this Bill because the philosophy behind this Bill is the protection of cottage industries. I admit that the labour conditions in this industry, as perhaps in most other cottage industries, are not quite healthy, are not quite up to the standard. Efforts may be made from the Government side as also from the public to improve the labour conditions, and any suggestion on that point to the Government will surely receive the careful consideration of the Government.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh (Hazaribagh West): What about unemployment?

Shri A. C. Guha: This Bill is to prevent further unemployment. Then, Mr. Barman and Mr. Chaliha and another Member have mentioned about other cottage industries, and Mr. Tripathi also has mentioned those things.

I admit in connection with this Bill these are very relevant points. I can only mention here that Government have set up some organisations which are looking after these cottage industries and rural handicrafts. I think hon. Members know that the All-India Village Industries Board which is an autonomous body, has been doing useful work. And the Members also should know that there is an excise duty collected on textile goods for the protection of *khadi* and handloom industries; and in various other ways Government have been trying to foster and encourage cottage industries and rural industries. And I should also say that this House should remember that even now only about three million persons are employed in factory labour, whereas the number employed in non-factory labour, i.e., in small scale industries and cottage industries, would be, I think, at least four times the number employed in factories; and the wealth produced in the factory labour is only about Rs. 550 crores or a little more than that, and the wealth produced in the non-factory industries, in cottage industries and small-scale industries must be much more than that. I cannot give any definite figure as to that, but it must be more than double the wealth produced in factory labour .So, Government are quite conscious of the utility and usefulness of cottage and small-scale industries. As Shri K. P. Tripathi has mentioned, recently Government have given every possible encouragement, and have been doing quite a lot for the protection and fostering of cottage and small-scale industries.

2 P.M.

Shri A. M. Thomas challenged my figure of six lakhs *biri* workers, and particularly, the State-wise break-up. As all Members have admitted, I can only say this is an unorganised or disorganised industry, and I cannot, therefore, claim to have any definite or accurate figure; it is more or less a guess work.

Shri N. A. Borkar has claimed that these machines will be able to produce 10,000 *biris* an hour, whereas our calculation is that it can produce only about 1,500 *biris* an hour. Anyhow, even if it is 1,500 *biris*, it is about twelve times more than the production of an ordinary skilled worker who can produce only about 125 biris an hour.

Shri A. M. Thomas: Why is it that there is consumer resistance?

Shri A. C. Guha: The Baroda machine produces a small number of *biris*. Only one machine in Bombay produces about 2,70,000 *biris*. That whole stock is now under the Excise Department. Shri A. M. Thomas has tried to put it in my mouth with regard to the machine, that it is only in an experimental stage. That is not true. The machine has become successful, and as I have said earlier, in Calcutta, there is one machine which has been put on demonstration, and is not in an experimental stage.

Then, Shri A. M. Thomas asked what the hurry was for this ordinance. We do not like that the people would invest some money in this by purchasing the machine and setting up some sort of a small factory for *biri* manufacture and should then find that the prohibitive excise duty has come in the way of utilising that factory. That would have been a loss for those men. We wanted to prevent it, so that the people might not have entered into this venture by establishing *biri* factories on mechanisation lines only be put to a loss.

I think I have more or less replied to all the points that have been raised. The broader questions of rationalisation and other things may be left for consideration on some other occasion. Let not this small Bill be encumbered with such serious matters. I hope the House will now be pleased to pass this Bill.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Now, I shall have to put the motion for circulation, moved by Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy, to the vote of the House. Need I put it to the House, or is the hon. Member withdrawing it?

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: I press my amendment.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

> "That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon of *Biri* workers and others who participate in the manufacture and sale of *Biris*, by the first week of December, 1954."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: As regards Shri V. B. Gandhi's amendment, for reference of the Bill to a Select Committee, it has not been moved. So, I shall now put the motion for consideration to the vote of the House.

The question is:

> "That the Bill further to amend the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2.— (*Amendment of the First Schedule, Act I of* 1944)

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There are a number of amendments to this clause. All the amendments that have been tabled to increase the excise duty are out of order, because they require the sanction of the President.

There is an amendment in the name of Shri K. C. Sodhia. Though it is in order, since the hon. Member is absent, it cannot be moved. The amendments of Shri Tushar Chatterjea as well as Shri N. B. Chowdhury are out of order, because they require the sanction of the President, and the same has not been obtained.

There is one amendment in the name of Shri Madhao Reddi. Is the hon. Member moving it?

Shri Madhao Reddi (Adilabad): I beg to move:

In page 1, lines 11 and 12, for "Three rupees per thousand" substitute "One rupee per thouusand".

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Amendment moved:

In page 1, lines 11 and 12, for "Three rupees per thousand" substitute "One rupee per thousand".

There are two more amendments in the names of Shri Borkar and Sardar A. S. Saigal. They are also out of order, because they require the sanction of the President.

Sardar A. S. Saigal: I am not moving it.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: It is out of order. Where is the question of moving it?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: So, there is only one amendment to clause 2, which is in the name of Shri Madhao Reddi, and is in order.

Shri Madhao Reddi: At the outset, I would like to say that I was rather surprised to listen to the hon. Deputy Minister, while he was replying to the debate just now. He still maintains that there is a case for banning

[Shri Madhao Reddi.]

these machines from being introduced in this industry, and he said that he owed a duty to labour. I do not understand when this Ministry of Finance began to realise that it owes a duty to labour. I think Shri K. K. Desai has to be congratulated for that. The hon. Deputy Minister of Finance, while introducing this Bill the other day, talked of machine menace. I do not know when he discovered this machine menace. At the same time, I do not know why this wisdom did not dawn on the hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry, when he was advocating rationalisation in the textile industry the other day. Anyhow, I am glad that at least the hon. Deputy Minister of Finance is now conscious of the machine menace in this country.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: At least in the *biri* industry, and not generally.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: Biri is itself a menace.

Shri Madhao Reddi: But what kind of a machine is this? Presumably, it is a small machine suited to small manufacture within the four walls of the cottages, and is the result of the endless experiments of the indigenous *enterpreneurs*. Are we to ban it? There is no case, I think, to ban these machines. On the contrary, I think, Government should encourage such small *enterpreneurs* to invent such small tools, and it should be the endeavour of Government to see that these tools go to every household and improve the efficiency of the workers. Instead of encouraging such people, I think it is unfair to ban such machines in the name of the protection of labour.

I am conscious that the hon. Minister might remark, look at these Socialists who always champion the cause of labour, here they are opposing this Bill which seeks to protect the labour. Certainly, we are not going to oppose any measure which gives any sort of protection to labour. But what is this measure?

I think we should realise that the real competition to this industry, as was ably pointed out by my colleague Shri Asoka Mehta just now, is from the cheap cigarettes industry. Year after year, Government have been giving permission to new companies to be opened, and as far as I know, during the last two years, at least ten new companies have been opened.

They are flooding the country with cheap brands of cigarettes like Char Minar, Ellora, Ajanta, and, I do not know, what else. All these brands of cigarettes are being manufactured on a vast scale and these are depriving the *biri* industry of its market and thousands of *biri* workers are rendered jobless. The hon. Minister has said that this industry is labouring to incentive industry and it employs six lakhs of labourers. I think it employs more than six lakhs, because apart from the six or seven lakhs of labourers who are engaged in *biri* rolling, there are lakhs of people who pluck *biri* leaves. Especially in any part of the country, that is, in Hyderabad, and in Madhya Pradesh and Orissa, there are lakhs of labourers who pluck *biri* leaves, who get seasonal employment. Also, these *biri* leaves give a revenue to the tune of some Rs. 4 crores to the Forest Departments of these States. So there is a strong case for the protection of this industry. We admit it. But how are you going to protect this industry? By banning these small machines? Certainly not. I think if you really want to protect this industry, you must stop giving permission to all these companies who are producing these cheap brands of cigarettes which are capturing the *biri* market, and also improve the *biri* industry itself. That is why I am opposed to any prohibitive tax and I want that it should be reduced to Re. 1. The amount that is realised out of this tax should be utilised to improve the industry and to find out foreign markets.

बाबू रामनारायण सिंह : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं इस संशोधन का और इस धारा का दोनों का

विरोध करता हूं। इस धारा में तो यह है कि जो कल से बीड़ी बनेगी उस पर तीन रुपये हजार के हिसाब से टैक्स लगेगा लेकिन जहां तक इस कल के बीड़ी उद्योग में इस्तेमाल का ताल्लुक है, मैं समझता हूं इस बात से कोई भी इंकार नहीं करेगा कि इससे इस उद्योग में लगे हुए मजदूरों में बेकारी बढ़ेगी। कलों के व्यवहार से मजदूरों में बेकारी तो जरूर बढ़ेगी और इस के बारे में मैंने मंत्री महोदय से प्रश्न भी किया था लेकिन उसका जवाब उन्होंने टालमटोल कर दे दिया।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरे कहने का मतलब यह है कि सरकार को ऐसा कोई भी काम नहीं करना चाहिये जिससे किसी तरह की बेकारी बढ़े। हजारीबाग जिले में मैं आपको बतलाऊं कि जहां काफी संख्या में तेली लोग रहते हैं और कोल्हू से तेल पेरने का काम करते हैं, उनका अच्छा काम चलता था और वे अपनी जीविका ठीक से कमा रहे थे लेकिन जब से वहां पर तेल पेरने की कल लगी तो उनका काम मंदा पड़ गया क्योंकि कल का तेल कोल्हू के तेल से सस्ता पड़ता है और उन बेचारे लोगों का काम इस तेल पेरने की कल की बदौलत चौपट हो गया और एक जमाना था कि यह तेली जाति एक सुखी जाति थी लेकिन आज वे सब लोग मजदूर हो गये हैं और मजदूरी करने के लिये बाजारों में जाते हैं, कभी मजदूरी मिलती है तो कभी नहीं मिलती। मेरा कहना है कि सरकार को ऐसी परिस्थिति को पैदा नहीं होने देना चाहिये और उसको रोकना चाहिये। बाढ़ के समय जब हमारे प्राइम मिनिस्टर श्री जवाहरलाल नेहरू पटना गये तो उन्होंने लोगों को सलाह दी कि हियूमन मशीन का इस्तेमाल करना चाहिये। यह ज्ञान उनको पहले नहीं था, लेकिन शायद बाढ़ देखने से यह ख्याल उनके दिल में पैदा हुआ, खैर जो कुछ भी हो, इसके लिये उनको बधाई है। लेकिन यह जो वर्त्तमान बिल सरकार लायी है वह ठीक उसके विपरीत है, उससे बेकारी बढ़ेगी, इसमें कोई शक नहीं है।

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: This Bill is intended to impose a restriction on the production by machines. An excise duty is imposed, without which the *biri* workers will be destroyed. That is the object.

बाबू रामनारायण सिंह : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, यह तो जाहिर है कि इसमें कम मजदूर लगेंगे, बहुत से मजदूर जो वहां पहले से काम कर रहे होंगे वे हट जायेंगे। इसके फलस्वरूप बेकारी बढ़ेगी, इसमें भी कोई संदेह नहीं है....

श्री भागवत झा आजाद : कैसे ?

बाबू रामनारायण सिंह : जहां पर छः लाख आदमी काम करते थे वहां अब एक ही लाख आदमी काम करेंगे।

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: If this Bill is thrown out, there will be more machines brought into existence and a large number of workers will be thrown out of employment.

बाबू रामनारायण सिंह : मेरे कहने का यह मकसद है कि जैसा अभी किसी ने कहा सरकार को कोई इख्तयार नहीं है....

Shri A. C. Guha: Is he supporting this Bill or opposing it?

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: He is doing both!

बाबू रामनारायण सिंह : आप इसको सपोर्ट मानें या जो मानें, यह आप पर निर्भर करता है।

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He is supporting the Bill.

बाबू रामनारायण सिंह : जैसे त्रिपाठी जी ने कहा कि सरकार इस तरह की मशीन बनना तो नहीं रोक सकती है लेकिन इतना तो कर ही सकती है कि जहां जहां आदमियों से काम चल सकता हो वहां मशीन से काम न होने दिया जाय, यह कानून वापिस लिया जाय और दूसरा कानून सरकार द्वारा यहां पर लाया जाय या यह कह दीजिये कि मशीन के जरिये बीड़ी नहीं बनेगी, अगर आप मजदूरों की मदद करना चाहते हैं तो इस तरह से मदद कीजिये....

सरदार ए० एस० बहगल : इसीलिये तो टैक्स लगा दिया है।

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He wants to ban the manufacture of *biris* by machine absolutely, not by imposing restrictions by way of an excise duty.

बाबू रामनारायण सिंह : मैं तो कहता हूं कि जहां जहां आदमी काम कर सकते हैं, हाथ से काम हो सकता है, ऐसी सभी जगहों पर इस तरह की रोक लगा दें कानून के जरिये कि वहां पर मशीन का कोई इस्तेमाल नहीं कर सकेगा, किसी भी रोजगार में मशीन का इस्तेमाल नहीं हो सकेगा, बीड़ी के रोजगार की तो कोई बात ही नहीं है....

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : इस बिल में ऐसा नहीं कर सकते, यह तो बीड़ी के सम्बन्ध में है। दूसरा बिल उसके लिये लाना पड़ेगा।

बाबू रामनारायण सिंह : ठीक है, मैं अपनी राय दे रहा हूं। इस बिल को आप कृपा करके वापिस लीजिये और एक दूसरा उपयुक्त बिल लाइये। बीड़ी मशीन के जरिये नहीं बने, बने तो हाथ से बने, नहीं तो न बने, आखिर बीड़ी के बगैर कोई मर थोड़े ही जायगा। मैं ऐसा कह कर जैसा मैंने कहा इस बिल का विरोध करता हूं और सुझाव देता हूं कि यह बिल वापिस लिया जाय और ऐसा उपाय करना चाहिये जिसमें सारे देश में जहां जहां हाथ से काम होता हो वहां हाथ से काम होता रहे और उनमें कल का व्यवहार न हो।

Kumari Annie Mascarene (Trivendrum): Mr. Chairman, Sir.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am Deputy-Speaker.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: I am sorry that I have dethroned you a bit; I will raise it up. Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: All of us are equal. (*Interruption*).

Kumari Annie Mascarene: I come from a State in which many of the *biri* makers, or the vast majority of them, are women. That is why I am up on my feet today to support their cause.

Shri D. D. Pant (Almora Distt.—North East): You have taken a vow not to support the cause of men.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: Not at present. This Bill reflects the policy of Government. I do not think that at this juncture the Government are wrong in introducing such a measure. If you look into the history of other countries, England, America and countries of Europe, at such a juncture the Governments of the respective countries did introduce measures to rationalise their industries and lead the way for economic progress. As far as the policy is concerned, I have no quarrel with the Government. On the other hand, I welcome the policy. But I am asking the Government whether they are ready to meet the consequences of an industrial revolution. No rationalisation of industries, no mechanisation of industries causes as much revolution at the basic strata of society as this. It affects women and children, and a good many men, who are employed in it. When you say six lakhs are employed in this industry, and it is a major industry, and one lakh of men come from Travancore-Cochin, you can rest assured that more than 60 per cent of them are women and children. Is the Government prepared to meet the consequences of introducing such a measure. I cannot understand the logic of Government in arguing that with a view to obtaining for the State the advantage gained in *biri* manufacture by machines by the considerable lowering of the cost of production, they are introducing this measure. Secondly they say that it is done to mitigate the effects of unfair competition. Where is your scheme to mitigate the consequences of the industrial revolution at the basic strata of society throwing out thousands and thousands of people out of employment especially women? That is not seen in this Act and that is why I say there is a lacuna in the logic of argument.

Sir, the introduction of machinery in this cottage industry is a progressive measure and we do not want to stick to primitive measures of producing *biri*. The machinery is also indigenous; that is another welcoming feature. What I want to know is: will the Government now take measures to make the machinery within the reach of every household? What is your Scheme? The hon. Members here have suggested co-operative schemes and the other day I think I read in the press, the hon. Minister for Commerce and Industry formulating a scheme to set up an Industrial Corporation, which is a very welcome measure. I hope you will take immediate steps to help these people who are going out of employment.

At present you get 10 *biris* for one anna. When this Rs. 3 duty is imposed on *biri*, perhaps, you will get only 6. Therefore, what about the consumer? The standard of living has not risen and though my hon. friend stated that it is a vice, I say it is a necessity.

Shri A. M. Thomas: I did not say it is a vice but the hon. Deputy-Speaker himself said that it is a necessary vice.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: I say, it is a necessity. Smoking is the recreation of the poor man when he is tired. When he is tired of life he resorts to *biri* smoking. The present standard of life is really miserable and when the *biris* fall from 10 to 6 for one anna how is the poor man going to buy it? It creates a lot of difficulty for him. The hon. Minister may perhaps say: we want to maintain the balance of competition.

Shri A. C. Guha: I cannot understand how this Bill will tend to increase the price of *biri*.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: It will maintain the price.

Shri A. C. Guha: It will maintain the same price.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: The repercussion of imposing Rs. 3 per thousand is yet to be seen. In view of the fact that there are other industries like 'cheap cigarettes'; in view of that that quality cigarettes are still imported, we have yet to see how the repercussion of this imposition of duty will fall on the price of *biri* side by side with these competitions.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is it not in the interest of the owner of the machine to sell it as cheap as possible; cheaper than the hand made *biris*? Therefore, the cost will go down.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: Then it does not pay to the people, especially the women—Muslim women—who sit at home and resort to *biri* making as a profession.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: They are producers.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: But, if the number of *biris* per anna falls, then the number of *biris* consumers will also fall.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Minister says that the price will not go up; it is not in the interest of the mahcine owner.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: That is his opinion, and this is my opinion. We will wait and see how the economic factors, the principles of demand and supply, will affect this process. We have only to wait and see.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (Gurgaon): Do women also smoke in large numbers?

Kumari Annie Mascarene: It is no surprise. In our State Muslim women generally take *biri*. I have not seen others taking *biri* so frequently, but there are women of all castes and communities who do smoke—perhaps you will be surprised at that.

Shri A. M. Thomas: Mostly agricultural labour.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: Formerly we had toddy shops and *biri* smoking as the recreations of poor men. Now

[Kumari Annie Mascarene]

denied toddy and so he goes to illicit liquor and *biri*.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member was a Health Minister.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: Of course, I was Health Minister; but still I maintain that.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member's time is up.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: Therefore, Sir, I have great pleasure in supporting this Bill.

Shri V. B. Gandhi (Bombay City—North): Sir, I thank you for this opportunity. Now, clause 2 seeks to insert in sub-item 3 of Item No. 9 in the First Schedule to the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944, the following:—

> "(3) *Biris* in the manufacture of which any process has been conducted with the aid of machines operated with or without the aid of power—Three rupees per thousand."

First of all we are to consider this expression "with the aid of machine". The expression "machine" is not very clearly described or defined in the clause. I have myself not seen the machine, but from the literature that has come to my hands, I understand that it is not just one machine, but two or three separate parts which work together. It seems to me that there is just one machine and, perhaps, two adjuncts which are in the nature of tools. So far as I can understand, that is all about the machine.

Now, I come to 'Rs. 3 per thousand'. What exactly is the mind of the Government on this point? From the statement of "Objects and Reasons", it appears that Government is primarily interested in securing some revenue as a result of lowering of the cost of production of *biris*. From the speech of the Deputy Minister of Finance it is very clear that he is out to prohibit the use of this machine altogether. If it is the revenue that the Government has in mind, then this rate of Rs. 3 is definitely too high. If it is the prohibition of the machine that the Government has in mind, then of course Rs. 3—would prove as an effective prohibition.

Now, coming again to the machine, the process of *biri* making consists of various parts. First the leaves have to be wetted and soaked in water for nearly twelve hours; then each individual leaf has to be cut in a particular shape; then this cut portion of the leaf has to be scraped with a very sharp knife to remove the veins and then comes finally the rolling of the *biri*. Now, if this machine—what we describe in general term as a machine in this clause—consists of a machine with certain other tools, then are we justified in banning the use of tools also. So far as I can see, one of these tools is just a die to cut the leaves in a particular shape. This wetting of leaves, cutting of leaves and scraping of veins is usually done at home by women. If these tools happen to be of a very small price—say between Rs. 5 to Rs. 20—and if the labour, which is a very hard kind of labour can be saved or lightened by the aid of these tools we ought not to prohibit them. These women work in the most disgraceful conditions for any community to tolerate. If the work can be got done with less effort by the use of these tools, are we doing the right thing by prohibiting them by a general description of the things as 'a machine'? Similarly, one of the machines, I think, is a die which cuts the leaves to a certain shape, and then comes the other machine for scraping of the veins. If that is a small tool, why include it in the 'machine'?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Scissors are also used? Is it also the desire that these also should not be allowed in the manufacture of *biris*?

Shri V. B. Gandhi: Neither in the Bill, nor in the statement of objects

and reasons, has any information been supplied to the House. Also, in the speech of the Deputy Finance Minister, it has not been made very clear as to what exactly is included in the 'machine'. My complaint is .....

Shri A. M. Thomas: The wording is "*biris* in the manufacture of which any process has been conducted with the aid of machines".

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Scissors are also machines!

Shri V. B. Gandhi: This question of prohibiting the introduction of this machine has also to be considered from the point of view of the workers, of the consumers, as well as of any possible export market that we may have or we may hope to have.

In the first place the workers themselves, a majority of them, at least in my city of Bombay where lakhs are working in *biri*-making, are women. And they work under very very disgraceful conditions. And I know, from various surveys made by Health workers in the city, that a large number of them suffer from communicable diseases, T.B. and also other communicable diseases. Now, in trying to keep this making of *biris* confined to these workers, under these conditions, are we not taking a great risk with the health of the consumers, those who smoke these *biris*?

Then about the export market. The Deputy Finance Minister said that we are in imminent danger of losing the Pakistan market anyway. We are not. If these machines were allowed to operate and the cost of production of *biris* were allowed to be lowered—as it certainly would be lowered— I am sure Pakistan will find it to its advantage to buy *biris* at a lower cost from us. Similarly, there is a very large untapped, unlimited market waiting for us in Africa. If we could only send out *biris* made under hygienic conditions, untouched by hand, made by machines, and offered at a lower cost, I am sure there is a very large market in Africa and other South East Asia countries. But export market will not touch anything manufactured under circumstances and conditions under which our *biris* are allowed to be made by us at present.

These are all considerations which ought to have been given due weight.

The last point I should make is that if this method of discouraging the introduction of machines had at all to be used, I would have preferred a cess to have been imposed rather than an excise duty, so that the proceeds of that cess could in some way have been used for the benefit and welfare of these lakhs of workers employed in *biri* making.

Shri A. C. Guha: I oppose the amendment.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

In page 1, lines 11 and 12, for "Three rupees per thousand" substitute "One rupee per thousand".

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 3, 4 and 1, the Title and the Enacting Formula were added to the Bill.

Shri A. C. Guha: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

May I say a few words in reply to what other Members have said?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Everything has been said. We have to start the other Bill now.

Shri A. C. Guha: Only two or three minutes.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Other Members also want time to speak on the Third Reading.

Shri A. C. Guha: I want to reply to some of the points raised.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: They were not new points raised.

Shri A. C. Guha: Mr. Gandhi has mentioned certain points.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: My difficulty is if I allow a speech by the hon. Minister I will have to call upon some other hon. Member. All right, five minutes can be taken into the other Bill.

Shri A. C. Guha: Sir, I shall not take more than two or three minutes.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: On a point of order. Can he reply after the clauses are passed? He wants to reply to the points raised under clause 2.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: On the third reading.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know what he is replying to in the third reading before anything has been said?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: In asking the House to accept his motion to pass the Bill finally he may say "these are the points which you ought not to forget over which no doubts ought to exist" and so on. There is no harm.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Then do we get a chance after that?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That was my difficulty. I think we have heard enough, and we have got now to take up the other Bill.

Shri A. C. Guha: All right; I am not so keen.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Minister may for the edification of all hon. Members lay a statement on the Table.

The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

CHANDERNAGORE (MERGER) BILL

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): I beg to move:

> "That the Bill to provide for the merger of Chandernagore into the State of West Bengal and for matters connected therewith, be taken into consideration."

The Members of this honourable Parliament are fully aware of the developments in connection with Chandernagore and, therefore, I can afford to be very brief.

Roughly speaking, in June 1949, by a referendum the people of Chandernagore voted for merger with India. The *de facto* transfer of the administration took place on 2nd May, 1950. And the *de jure* transfer, after the Treaty of Cession signed in Paris, took place on 9th June, 1952.

Ever since the time of the transfer of the administration into our hands Chandernagore has been administered by an Administrator appointed by the Government of India, assisted by an Advisory Council nominated by the President; and for administrative purposes Chandernagore has been under the administrative control of the Ministry of External Affairs.

But the Government had given an assurance that the final administrative set-up of Chandernagore would be decided in consultation with the people of Chandernagore.

Towards the end of 1953 a one-man Commission consisting of Dr. Amarnath Jha was appointed to go into the question and advise the Government. Dr. Amarnath Jha went down to Chandernagore, met a large number of people—over seventy in number—and also had a very large number of memoranda and notes given him by individuals and political organisations in Chandernagore. On 18th December he submitted his report to the Government of India.

On May 8th the Government of India published its decisions with regard to the Jha Commission Report. After that, in consultation with the various Ministries of the Government of India involved in this matter, and in consultation with the Government of West Bengal, the present Bill has been drafted.

As required under article 3 of the Constitution this Bill had been presented before the Bengal Legislature, and the consent of that Legislature to the introduction of this Bill in this Parliament, as well as to the provisions of this Bill, has been obtained. Now we are here before this House with the Bill.

Before I pass over to the detailed clauses of the Bill, I would like to say that during the years that Chandernagore had been under the administrative control of the Government of India we have spent nearly Rs. 5 lakhs to meet the yearly deficits of Chandernagore. Now, Sir, we have also committed ourselves to a grant of about twelve to sixteen lakhs of rupees spread in over a number of years to the Government of West Bengal for a making up the net revenue deficit of Chandernagore. I may also say the Government are committed to a large share of the cost of various development schemes of Chandernagore. The cost is to be shared between the Government of India, the Government of West Bengal and the Municipality of Chandernagore. The principal recommendations of the Jha Commission are that Chandernagore should be integrated with West Bengal, that Chandernagore should be the headquarters of a sub-division, that Chandernagore should have a representative in the West Bengal Assembly and that early steps should be take to confer Indian citizenship upon the people of Chandernagore. Sir, you will find that all these have been put into this Bill which is now presented before the House. There are sixteen different items of recommendations in that report. As I said, four of the most important which could go into this Merger Bill have been incorporated in the Bill. Some of the recommendations are of a nature which cannot go into the Bill, which call only for executive action. I should like to say that recommendation No. 4, which is that a judicial officer should enquire into the applicability of the French laws, retention of the French laws in Chandernagore etc., action has already been taken. Another important recommendation is that the budget of Chandernagore should be carefully scrutinised in order to find out whether economies are possible. This has also been done. Then there is another question. It was recommended that we should enquire into the matter whether Chandernagore could be represented in the Central Legislature. Enquiry has been made and it is found that because of the small number of population of Chandernagore, it cannot be done.

Shri Mulchand Dube (Farukhabad Distt.—North): What is the population?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: 49,900 according to the latest figures available. Recommendation No. 16 said that we should enquire whether the Municipality of Chandernagore, which is to be called a Corporation, should have a certain share of the income from excise and other receipts in order to make up its funds. It has not been considered necessary because the Corporation of Chandernagore will raise its funds through taxes.

Then, Sir, there is the main question of the Corporation. The Jha Commission recommended that Chandernagore should have a Corporation with some more powers than are generally given to the Municipalities of West Bengal. Dr. Roy, the Chief Minister of West Bengal, has informed the Houses of the Bengal Legislature when this matter was pending before them that a Bill has already been prepared and possibly that Chandernagore Corporation Bill will be placed before the Bengal Legislature during its coming session. Then, Sir, there are various

[Shri Anil K. Chanda]

other items which relate to the continuance of French studies in Chandernagore, the establishment of a museum and a Hall of French culture and the free provisions of primary education, the teaching of Hindi and the maintenance cost of the College in Chandernagore. These obviously could not go into this Merger Bill but in order that there should be no doubts about the intentions of the West Bengal Government in these matters. I may quote here the speech which was delivered by Dr. Roy in the Bengal Legislative Assembly and in the Bengal Legislative Council, expressing in unambiguous terms the intention of his Government with regard to the implementation of the various other items of the Jha Commission recommendations. He said:

> "The Government of India and the Government of West Bengal have promised sympathetic consideration of development plans, such as sewage scheme, building of quarters for officers and municipal workers of Chandernagore. The implementation of this decision had already been taken in hand, estimates are getting ready and the details of the scheme will be finalised by the West Bengal Government in consultation with the Government of India and both the Governments will share the cost of such works. It has also been decided to establish a municipal corporation in Chandernagore. According to suggestion contained in the Report the Bill will provide for a corporation slightly different from one under provision of the Bengal Municipal Act. In Bengal Municipal Act there is no provision for adult sufferage, but in this Bill, a provision has been made for that because in Chandernagore they had this system of election".

In his speech before the Bengal Legislative Council, Dr. Roy further added:

> "The Local Self Government Department of West Bengal had already drafted a Bill which will be placed before the House next session for introducing this type of corporation with executive officers as recommended by Dr. Jha".

Then, he added, in his speech in the Assembly that:

> "the State Government have also undertaken to ensure the maintenance of a poor fund by the municipal corporation by making grants to the corporation from time to time".

In the Bengal Council, he added that:

> "as the revenue of the corporation might not be sufficient to meet the maintenance of the poor fund, they will contribute to the poor fund an amount equal to that used to be paid previously by the French administration."

I am now quoting a few more lines from his speech in the Assembly:

> "We have also provided for facilities for maintenance and development of French culture in Chandernagore after the merger. It has been decided that the primary education will be free and facilities will also be given for the teaching of French so long as there is a demand for the same. Secondary schools maintained by the French administration would be managed and maintained by the Government of West Bengal. The maintenance of the Chandernagore College is also the responsibility of the State Government. A part of the Administrator's residence in Chandernagore is also already being used for housing a museum containing French souvenirs and the historical relics of Chandernagore."

I may say, Sir, the Government of India have also sanctioned a sum of two lakhs of rupees for the maintenance of these. Dr. Roy further added:

> "It is also intended that at a later stage the house will be used

not only as a museum but also to provide a centre for the cultivation and dissemination of French culture".

I submit, Sir, that an objective scrutiny of the Bill along with the assurances given by the Chief Minister of West Bengal will clearly show that full effect is being given to the recommendations made by Dr. Jha and I respectfully suggest that the Bill be passed by this House without any amendments.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to provide for the merger of Chandernagore into the State of West Bengal and for matters connected therewith be taken into consideration."

There are some amendments to circulate the Bill for eliciting public opinion and for referring it to a Select Committee. Those may be moved and then the amendments and the Bill will be open for discussion.

Shri Tushar Chatterjea (Serampore): I beg to move:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon of people of Chandernagore by the first week of November, 1954."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Amendment moved:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon of people of Chandernagore by the first week of November, 1954."

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy (Mysore): My amendment is

"That the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of 21 members.....".

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What about the names? I have not received them.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: The names of the persons are to be mentioned only at the time of making a motion and I have got the names.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Let him give me a copy of the names. Have all the members concerned been consulted?

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: I have consulted them and they have all agreed.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Then let him read the names.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of 21 members, namely, Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani, Shri N. C. Chatterjee, Shri Tushar Chatterjea, Pandit Thakurdas Bhargava, Shri Barman, Shri Nemi Chand Kasliwal, Shri Venkataraman, Shri Shivamurthi Swami, Kumari Annie Mascarene, Shri Avinashalingam Chettiar, Shri C. R. Basappa, Shri Madhao Reddy, Shri Sadhan Gupta, Dr. Ram Subhag Singh, Shri A. V. Thomas, Shri V. B. Gandhi, Shri Amjad Ali, Shri T. K. Chaudhuri, Pandit D. N. Tiwary, Shri Achuthan, and the Mover, with instructions to report on or before the 27th September, 1954."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What about the mover of the Bill?

Shri Venkataraman (Tanjore): I have not been consulted. I do not want to be a member of the Select Committee. I am going to oppose this motion.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am not going to accept this motion now. I was willing to allow the names to be read out here. If the precaution had been taken of consulting the Members and taking their consent to be members, there would have been no difficulty.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I submit that I sent round my whip to consult the Members and he has given this list after consultation?

Shri N. C. Chatterjee (Hooghly): They never consulted me. I am supposed to be the Member from Chandernagore.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am not accepting this motion. The only amendment is that of Shri Tushar Chatterjea. The whole Bill and the amendment are before the House.

Shri Tushar Chatterjea: I have moved my amendment for the circulation of the Bill, not at all for the purpose of delaying the passage of the Bill. The point is this. Chandernagore people wanted merger with West Bengal unequivocally. But, the problem of the merger of Chandernagore with West Bengal is not a simple and formal problem. This Bill only suggests formal merger with West Bengal. This Bill does not take into consideration all the aspects of the merger of Chandernagore with West Bengal, aspects that have been known in different ways, through protests of Chandernagore people, through objections raised by the Chandernagore people, through memoranda sent by the Chandernagore people and also through the recommendations of the Jha Commission report. Although I want quick acceptance of a measure like the merger of Chandernagore with West Bengal, still I want that this Bill should be re-drafted entirely and for that purpose, the people of Chandernagore should be consulted, so that in the place of this Bill, a new Bill should be brought in. Why I demand this is? Because the Government have taken this Bill to be a very formal one. Only two hours have been allotted for the consideration of this Bill. We must consider that this Bill seeks to admit a new area into the Indian Union. It is not simply the question of Chandernagore people. It has its repercussions all over India. There is the pro-merger movement going on. If the Chandernagore people express adverse reactions, certainly, it will have its repercussions upon the Pondicherry people and other people too.

Secondly, we must consider that this question of merger of Chandernagore with West Bengal is not a new question. For one or two years, it has been hanging fire. Had it been a simple formal affair, Government would have brought this Bill a year back. Why could not the Government bring it a year back? It was because there are so many other questions connected with this main question. Unless and until those other questions are considered dispassionately with proper sympathy for the Chandernagore people, somehow or other bringing a formal Bill will not solve the Chandernagore problem and it will not satisfy the Chandernagore pepole.

Just now, the Deputy Minister has said that the Chief Minister of West Bengal has promised in the West Bengal Assembly and Council about the Corporation and other things, that they are going to bring a Bill in the West Bengal Assembly. We have heard that and we have heard that also in the West Bengal Assembly. But the point is: such promises are not at all new things. We are hearing such promises for a long time. The Government had to face terrible opposition from the Chandernagore people, not only from the Leftist parties, but also from the United party in which even the Congress is represented. From these, it must be understood that there are some grievances in the minds of the Chandernagore people which transcend even political considerations, on which even the Congress unites with the Communists. These detailed questions must be very carefully gone into and definite proposals must be put forward.

It is true that Government made enquiries about Chandernagore public opinion. But, I am sorry to say that the Government's stand about Chandernagore is very confusing. We who directly come from Chandernagore do not understand what the Government of India really want to do with Chandernagore. The Jha Commission was appointed. The Jha Commission heard the grievances of the Chandernagore people, received memoranda,

went through them and made recommendations. On the 23rd March, as far as I remember, the Prime Minister, in this House, declared that the Government of India are going to implement the Jha Commission's recommendations *in toto*. The next day, the Deputy Minister reiterated the same statement. But, on 8th May, there came the Government decision. What do we find there? The Government decision is, to a large measure, a departure from the Jha Commission's recommendations. I have with me the recommendations of the Jha Commission and the Government decision also. The Deputy Minister will be able to quote passages in respect of certain very vital points. About the setting up of the Corporation, the Jha Commission recommended that such wide powers should be given to the Corporation by which not only primary schools, but even secondary schools and hospitals will be under the Corporation. This is the recommendation of the Jha Commission. It is a very vital thing, because not only primary schools, but secondary schools and hospitals come in. But in the Government decision, control over secondary schools and hospitals has been given over to the State Government and the Corporation has been denied that charge.

The Jha Commission categorically recommended that a permanent seat for Chandernagore should be provided for in the Assembly. But, the Government decision made a departure from that and Government said that till the next general election, Chandernagore will have a seat and thereafter new arrangements will be made. About the Poor Fund, the Deputy Minister has not referred to it. The Poor Fund is not a trifling thing. The Chandernagore administration, in which the people had the privilege of being represented some time back, managed this Fund and with the help of it, a large number of poor people were able to prosecute their studies, etc. The Jha Commission recommended that the Poor Fund should be maintained and that a part of the entertainments tax should be given over to this Fund so that it can be managed. This is a vital thing for the Chandernagore people. The Government decision does not say anything about the giving over of the entertainments tax.

Shri Anil K. Chanda: I quoted from Dr. Roy's speech that this Fund will be maintained and given a grant equal to the amount that was given during the French Administration.

Shri Tushar Chatterjea: Then I stand corrected on that point. I have heard it only just now. Earlier we did not know anything about it. These are the things that the Chandernagore people have been complaining about.

3 P.M.

They want some definite declaration from the Government by which they can understand that Chandernagore is going to have not only a position under the West Bengal Government, but also a Corporation with wider powers than the other municipalities and such other things as the Jha Commission has recommended.

Now, the Deputy Minister says that the Chief Minister of West Bengal has promised so many things. The point is: really, we are sorry to say we cannot actually depend upon the words of the Chief Minister of West Bengal. The All-Parties Committee waited upon the Chief Minister of Bengal only the other day. Dr. B. C. Roy categorically told them that he is not going to make a corporation which is in any way better than a municipality. In the Assembly he said "I will do only such things as are recommended by the Government decision." Then, when he faced terrible opposition in the Legislative Council, he just shifted the ground and there in the Legislative Council he said: "Yes, I am going to implement the full recommendations of the Jha Commission." Really, we are in a difficulty. Dr. Roy said three things at three different times. To the Chandernagore deputation he said one thing. In the Assembly he said something else, and in the Legislative Council he said a third thing. Now,

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our difficulty is, the entire matter of Chandernagore was so long conducted, managed, enquired into by the Government of India. It must be admitted that till now Chandernagore is the property of the Government of India, and all the affairs of Chandernagore, whether it is the grievances of the Chandernagore people or just the matter of enquiry in any of the affairs of Chandernagore, everything was so long conducted by the Government of India. The Government of India had its own responsibility about dealing with Chandernagore, and for this reason only the Government of India appointed this Jha Commission, and on the recommendations of the Jha Commission the Government of India has to say things very categorically, and has to assure the Chandernagore people very categorically about things that are to be done.

Now, we demand that the Chandernagore (Merger) Bill should be so redrafted as to incorporate all those vital matters that affect the Chandernagore people, and without which Chandernagore will feel aggrieved to come under Indian administration. Sir, we must remember that Chandernagore people's adverse reaction will affect the people of Pondicherry and harm the merger movement there. We do not want that. The people of India must recognise that the Chandernagore people are the harbingers of this pro-merger movement and the Government of India owes some responsibility towards the Chandernagore people. They must satisfy them, must acquiesce their demand.

And what exactly are their demands? They, through prolonged struggle with French imperialism, acquired certain special rights, certain special civic rights, civil privileges, certain rights to control all the affairs of the town. The Jha Commission has stated in its report that Chandernagore as a town has much advanced in all respects than any other town of the like size. All these things have been admitted by the Jha Commission. Some special consideration should be given to Chandernagore, because Chandernagore people are coming from a position which is in a way of a higher democratic order than any other town. Therefore, our demand is that the entire Bill should be so re-cast, so re-drafted that in it the main question of the Corporation with wider powers, with powers that have been suggested by the Jha Commission recommendation, are given. In that way, the entire Bill should be redrafted. Unless that is done, Chandernagore people cannot remain satisfied.

Really, they have developed a suspicion about the West Bengal Government, even about the Government of India.

I just refer to you one thing. Here is the Jha Commission report. Item 3 of the *Contents* of the Jha Commission report is Appendix I, II, III. You will not find Appendix III in this book. In the report Appendix III is completely missing, although reference is made about it in the contents. Why is it missing? Because Appendix III is the memorandum submitted by the All Parties Committee in which all parties of Chandernagore including the Congress and Communists are included; and those demands incorporated in the memorandum have been generally accepted by the Jha Commission. We suspect that it is because of the reason that this thing will be exposed, will be revealed before Members of Parliament, that the memorandum of the All Parties Committee is missing from the report, although in the contents it is just mentioned.

The Chandernagore people have really developed a sort of suspicion about the working and the doings of the Government of India, and about West Bengal, plainly speaking, they have got no faith about the attitude of the West Bengal Government. They are very keen about immediate merger with West Bengal, they are very keen about inspiring the entire country with their example that Chandernagore has

come back to its motherland, but what they want is to have such a Bill in which some directive principle is set forth about the formation of the Corporation, about constituency etc., and about the retention of the rights and privileges that they are enjoying. I do not understand why, simply by way of inserting two or three sentences, some sort of guiding principle about formation of this Corporation with such and such powers cannot be incorporated in this Bill. I do not understand why such a point, a very simple point which satisfies Chandernagore and which really recognises the prolonged national struggle that Chandernagore people conducted cannot be incorporated. I appeal through you to the Government of India that the Bill should be so re-drafted that this wish and desire of the Chandernagore people is met.

Shri N. C. Chatterjee: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I am happy that the hon. the Prime Minister is here in this House. If we can pass this Bill today with certain clarifications and certain assurances or categorical declarations, it will be, Sir, a red letter day in the history of both Bengal and India. It will mean not merely the final liquidation of one of the foreign pockets in India, but it will mean the final integration of that pocket in our Indian Republic, and I hope that this will be the precursor of many more to come, and we will be opening today the chapter of liquidating all foreign pockets in India and their final merger in the Indian Republic. I hope the Prime Minister of India will next year sponsor the Goa (Merger) Bill in this House and we shall carry it unanimously in spite of the good wishes of Dr. Salazar and his friends.

In the history of the freedom movement of this country, Chandernagore occupies a very honoured place. In this sacred city were born some of the greatest revolutionaries of Bengal and some of the foremost patriots of India. In this French town was born the first martyr of our Bengal revolutionary movement. You may remember that name, Kannailal Datt, who shot down a traitor in the Alipore jail and made history in Bengal. In this sacred city was born that great patriot Rashbehari Bose who made history in Chandni Chowk in Delhi when the British Viceroy was bombed, and later that great man helped Netaji in founding the Indian National Army. Although this place, this town, was under French tricolour, I ought to remind this House that it provided asylum to some of the greatest men, who were also the greatest fighters for India's freedom. One of the greatest, possibly the greatest, was Shri Aurobindo Ghosh, and from this sacred city of Chandenagore, he went to Pondicherry when he was being hunted by the British imperialists. He was then living with another great son of Bengal and India, Shri Motilal Roy, the founder of the Prabartak Sangh, and from this sacred city he went to Pondicherry and then started his Ashram there.

Although we, the people of Bengal, intensely disliked both British and French colonialism, it must be admitted that under the French tricolour the citizens of Chandernagore enjoyed a certain amount of local autonomy and democratic rights which no part of India had ever enjoyed under British rule. Under the French Republican laws, the right of adult franchise had been conferred upon the citizens of Chandernagore many years back. The constitution of the free city of Chandernagore resembled really that of a City Republic. The municipal assembly was something like a miniature Parliament which elected practically something like a *nagar panchayat* It did not merely administer to the ordinary civic needs of the Chandernagore people. But it had a wider perspective, larger rights and higher duties and nobler functions to discharge. This municipal body of Chandernagore was not merely cleansing the streets and removing the dirt and filth, but it took upon itself the sacred task of providing for both primary and secondary education. Long long before

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my city the city of Calcutta, elected its first mayor, Deshabandu Chitta Rajan Das, this city of Chandernagore was electing its mayors for the last fifty years, and enjoyed autonomy of a very appreciable degree. The municipal assembly had full financial and full administrative autonomy.

Now, when the referendum took place on 18th June 1949, Chandernagore cast it unequivocal verdict for joining the Indian Union. Then, rightly, the Prime Minister of India, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru sent his congratulations to the people of Chandernagore, on the next day, *i.e.* 19th June 1954, in the following terms:

> "I send my greetings to the people of Chandernagore, and my good wishes for their future progress and prosperity. The form in which Chandernagore will join the Indian Union will be decided after full consultation of all the issues involved, including more especially the wishes of the people."

I do not think it will be right to say that the Prime Minister has deliberately broken his word and wants to go back upon his declaration that the wishes of the people would be consulted.

As you may remember, Dr. Jha was appointed for this purpose. My hon. friend Shri Tushar Chatterjea is right when he said that it is almost a miracle, an amazing feat that in this town of Chandernagore, all parties met; Congressites, Communists, Hindu Mahasabhites, Socialists and everybody else met, and they formed a joint committee, and then they put forward certain united, joint, and agreed recommendations. They passed them *nem con*, and placed them before the Jha Commission. Dr. Jha has practically adopted all the recommendations put forward by the United committee on behalf of the people of Chandernagore.

I have in my hand a booklet issued under the caption 'An appeal to the Members of Parliament on the future of Chandernagore'. I had also the privilege of discussing this matter with one of the distinguished citizens of Chandernagore, Shri Arun Dutt, who is associated with Babu Motilal Roy. He and his colleagues assured me that every statement here is correct. And what is the statement they make? On page 2 of this booklet, they say:

> "The main recommendations of the Jha Commission affecting vitally the interests of the people of Chandernagore are as follows."

Then, the main recommendations are put forward, and they are saying that practically all the important points they urged before the Jha Commission had been accepted by Dr. Jha and been embodied in his report. After the Jha Commission made its report, the Prime Minister made another categorical declaration. The statement of the Prime Minister was made on 23rd March 1954, in the Lok Sabha. I am quoting his exact words.

> "The Government had accepted the main recommendations of Dr. Amarnath Jha, and a corporation would be set up at Chandernagore with considerable powers such as a corporation might have."

Then, Shri Anil K. Chanda, the Deputy Minister of External Affairs, made the following statement in this House on 24th March 1954:

> "The Prime Minister has already given enough indications to the House that the Government intend in general terms to accept *in toto*, the recommendations of the Jha Commission."

Now, I want a categorical statement from the hon. Prime Minister that the Jha Commission's recommendations will be implemented, and there is absolutely no question of the Government of India or any government in this Republic going back on the same.

What were the main recommendations? The main recommendation was

that Chandernagore should be made the headquarters of a sub-division or a district. That is being implemented. Chandernagore is going to be made the headquarters of a sub-division. Secondly, Chandernagore should be entitled to elect a member to the West Bengal Legislative Assembly. If you look at this Bill, you find there is some ambiguity, and that is what the people have asked me to point out to this House and also to the Prime Minister. I am satisfied that I had the privilege of discussing the matter with him and I am satisfied that there is no desire really to circumvent this recommendation. But if you look at clause 6 on page 3 of the Bill, you find:

> "6. *Representation of Chandernagore in the Legislative Assembly of West Bengal.*—Until otherwise provided by law,—
>
> (a) there shall be an additional constituency of the Legislative Assembly of West Bengal (to be known as the Chandernagore Assembly constituency) comprising the entire area of Chandernagore, whether with the addition of such areas of other constituencies as may be determined by the President or without such addition and the said constituency shall be represented in that Assembly by one member to be chosen by direct election;.."

They are apprehensive on account of the words 'whether with the addition of such areas of other constituencies as may be determined by the President'. They are thinking that although a definite recommendation was made that Chandernagore—Chandernagore means Chandernagore as it stands today—should be entitled to elect a member to the West Bengal Assembly, yet that can be diluted by the incorporation of other areas, and the voice of the people of Chandernagore may not get full and free expression through its own member. That requires clarification.

The most important point on which there is some uneasiness is item VII of Dr. Jha's recommendations, which reads as follows:

> "That there should be set up a Corporation whose duties will be to decide all questions relating to Municipal affairs, to pass the Municipal Budget, to maintain educational institutions (primary and secondary) and hospitals, to levy municipal taxes, and, subject to the overall control of the West Bengal Government, particularly as regards finance, frame planes for the development and progress of the City."

That was the recommendation of the All parties' committee, and that was the grand demand of the people of Chandernagore. That was the recommendation of Dr. Jha also. On this point, there was some pledge or assurance given by the hon. Prime Minister. But what are we seeking to do? If you look at sub-clause (2) of clause 3, on page 2 of the Bill, you will find:

> "Without prejudice to the power of the State Government to alter hereafter the extent, limits and names of districts and sub-divisions, Chandernagore shall form part of the district of Hooghly in the State of West Bengal and the State Government shall, by order in the Official Gazette, provide for the administration of Chandernagore by constituting it into a new subdivision of the said district whether with the addition of such areas of that district as may be specified in the order or without such addition."

As you know, sub-division creation is really the function of the State Legislature. It may also be pointed out to me that the creation of a corporation, its constitution, and then defining its powers, functions, duties etc. is primarily the function of the State Legislature, and it will not be appropriate for this Parliament to encroach or trespass upon the exclusive legislative competence of the State Legislature. But I may point

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out that when you are mentioning that a sub-division is to be created, you are really sending some kind of a recommendation or directive to the West Bengal Government. I also want that there should be some kind of a direction or recommendation without any doubt or hesitation, that the clear and unequivocal recommendation of Dr. Jha, which has been accepted, will be implemented.

I want the hon. the Prime Minister to assure the people of Chandernagore that they shall have a Corporation not merely only in name, but they shall have a Corporation of the character envisaged in Dr. Jha's report, and specially, they will have control over these matters, that is, educational institutions—primary and secondary—and, if possible, also hospitals, and they will levy municipal taxes, of course, subject to the overall control of the West Bengal Government; and they shall also frame plans for the development and progress of the city. So long as the people are assured that there is no intention of going back on Dr. Jha's recommendation, it is all right. Whatever Dr. Roy might have said—he might have spoken in two voices or three voices—I do not know—still the voice of the Prime Minister of India will be dominant and if he gives us a clear assurance, that will to a large extent satisfy the people. Therefore, I am pressing that in four vital respects assurances have been given and they should be honoured. The assurances, in one word, mean the continuity of civic life with the fullest autonomy, unimpaired, with full facilities for self-expression through a properly constituted autonomous body based on adult sufferage and with full-financial and administrative autonomy. If the Government and Parliament are prepared to redeem these pledges, then it will hearten not only the citizens of Chandernagore but also the people who are fighting for the liberation of other foreign enclaves, and it will also quicken the urge for freedom in those places.

If I may strike a personal note without impertinence, under this Bill responsibility is being cast upon me as a sitting Member for the parliamentary constituency of Hooghly. I shall have the privilege to represent from tomorrow the people of Chandernagore under clause 5(b), which provides that the sitting Member of the House of the People representing the Hooghly parliamentary constituency shall be deemed to have been elected by that constituency as modified by this Act.

Shri Venkataraman: We will cheer you. *(Interruption).*

Shri N. C. Chatterjee: Thank you. I am being declared to be an elected Member under this law, elected by the people of Chandernagore. That is a great privilege and a great responsibility. I had the privilege to preside over the Hooghly District Political Conference which was held in Chandernagore some months back. People were very sceptical about it and some asked whether it was proper,—'Chandernagore is not yet in the district of Hooghly; should we have there a political conference of the district?'. I made a prophesy that that would be the organic evolution of its political life, and really this citadel of nationalism should be integrated and merged in the district of Hooghly, which, as you know, is the birth-place of some of the greatest men of India, of Asia and of the world—Raja Ram Mohan Roy and Shri Ramakrishna Paramahamsa. I am happy that this birth-place of nationalism is coalescing today with that Hooghly constituency.

I wish that the Government will redeem its pledges, but before I sit down, I want to draw the attention of the hon. the Prime Minister to this, that these gentlemen from Chandernagore—Mr. Arun Chandra Dutt and others—have wanted four assurances. I hope it will be possible for the hon. the Prime Minister to make a sympathetic response to these demands.

The first is that they want Chandernagore's right to elect one representative. The Bill should be put either in unambiguous language or an unambiguous declaration should be made. The second point that they urge is that Chandernagore should have a Corporation, as I have depicted, enjoying wider powers than those enjoyed by ordinary municipal corporations. This pledge should be fully implemented, and the city should continue to enjoy a status and a degree of civil rights and responsibilities far in advance of most other cities of comparable size. Thirdly, they are appealing to this House and to the Prime Minister that the fate of the people of Chandernagore should be decided in a manner so as not to cause any sense of frustration or uneasiness. I want a satisfied and contented Chandernagore. They also want that Chandernagore should have a subvention from the Centre. Therefore, I am asking for four categorical assurances from the Prime Minister. Firstly, an autonomous corporation with powers of taxation and of control over primary and secondary education. Secondly, I am pleading for a suitable subvention. They are demanding Rs. 50 lakhs. I do not know how much Dr. Roy's Government has asked for, but some subvention was promised. I hope it will be possible for the hon. the Prime Minister to make some declaration. If you cannot indicate the actual quantum, gave them some assurance that they will be placed on their feet and the wherewithals will be provided. Thirdly, there should be a gradual adjustment over a period of three years without any violent break in the continuity of the laws. You know Chandernagore was governed by French laws. If you kindly turn to clause 19(3), it says:

> "No Power under sub-section (1) or sub-section (2) shall be exercised by the Central Government, or as the case may be, the State Government after the expiry of one year from the appointed day".

We are suggesting that this 'one year' should be made 'three years'. The people want that there should not be any violent break; there should be a slow and gradual adjustment. If I remember the language of the Prime Minister—that was also his assurance—he said: 'We will not bring about any violent break with the past and I shall see that there should be a gradual, slow and steady adjustment and the continuity of laws maintained as much as possible'. Fourthly, (Chandernagore should be given the definite assurance that it shall have at least one representative in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy (Salem): May I just seek a clarification?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: After the Prime Minister has spoken.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: The Deputy Minister said that the population of Chandernagore was 50,000. I take it that the population of the voters is 25,000. Is it the opinion of the Jha Committee that there should be one representative in the Assembly representing 25,000 voters?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Defence (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): This Bill is a relatively simple and a formal one, but I entirely agree with the hon. Member who has just spoken that, nevertheless, this is a historic occasion when we are considering this Bill. It ends, as soon as we pass this Bill, formally, legally and constitutionally, foreign rule in another small part of India. It ended practically sometime ago. After the major event of India attaining her independence, as is well known, some odd bits of territory still remained outside the fold of independent India. We have proceeded patiently to deal with these odd bits of territory. Some hon. Members have sometimes criticised us for too much patience. Nevertheless, we have proceeded along that path, because we wanted to settle these matters peacefully and set an example to others in the settlement of our disputes peacefully, and also not to leave a trial of bitterness with

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other countries. Therefore, this is a happy and a historic occasion.

Having said that, I would like to remind the House that this is a formal Bill of merger, because the Constitution requires such legislation. Therefore, in such a Bill, for one to think of putting in the details of the administration of Chandernagore or what is going to happen there would be, I submit, completely out of place. Now, once it is going to merge not only in India but in West Bengal, then there are certain functions which the State Government will exercise and certain functions which the Government of India will exercise. If we in this Bill undertake to lay down something in regard to the functions that the State of West Bengal is going to exercise, we will be not only going out of our way, but I am not quite sure whether it would be proper for us to do so.

Apart from this, as the Constitution lays down, in such cases such a Bill has to be sent to that State and the State Legislature has to consider it and approve of it. Then we get it back for formal consideration by this House. This was, in accordance with that provision, sent to the West Bengal Government and both Houses of the West Bengal Legislature considered it and approved of it. Now, if we change it here, I am not quite sure as to what the effect of it will be—exactly where we stand after the approval—and whether it necessitates another consultation or not. Therefore, I submit that this Bill should be taken as a simple Bill of merger and nothing more. Of course, there are some indications of other details, but it is essentially a Bill of merger and it is for this reason that somethings about which we were agreed, somethings about which there was no argument, have not been mentioned in this Bill.

Both the hon. Members who have spoken have laid great stress on the Corporation for Pondicherry—I mean, for Chandernagore.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Coming events!

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I should not have made such slips.

Now, that point has been agreed upon, right from the beginning, ever since Dr. Amarnath Jha presented his report. If Mr. Chatterjee or any other hon. Member wants an assurance from me about that, I can certainly repeat it with all the force at my command, that it is our settled and fixed policy to give them a Corporation. Now, again, if you put in somewhere in the Bill 'a Corporation', it has no particular meaning unless you go into details as to what the Corporation is going to do. Many of the things that Dr. Amarnath Jha says are those which every municipality enjoys. There are one or two, perhaps, which every municipality has not enjoyed. As a matter of fact if we draw up a list of the powers of the Corporation it will go much beyond what Dr. Amarnath Jha has said. So, there is no point in mentioning a Corporation by itself unless one goes into its powers, and you cannot, in a Bill on Merger—I submit—do that. It is absolutely clear, on behalf of the Government of India and the West Bengal Government, that there is going to be a Corporation with wide powers. I cannot for the moment say exactly what those powers will be, but I can assure hon. Members that they will be wide, practically what Dr. Amarnath Jha said, and we are likely to go beyond that.

Now, one or two matters have been said about this Corporation. I think Mr. Chatterjee mentioned about primary and secondary education, hospitals and the like. It is rather difficult for me to go into these details, because ultimately the Bengal Assembly will consider them when it considers the Bill for the Corporation, which, as my colleague the Deputy

Minister said, is actually being prepared and is almost ready. I should imagine that so far as education is concerned—I mean secondary education, it will, in all probability, come under the scope of the Corporation. So far as hospitals are concerned, no doubt the hospitals will be run by them, but in what measure control will be exercised by the State Government and how much the Corporation might exercise, I am not quite sure; because in West Bengal, I understand that hospitals—really big ones—have been provincialised—whatever that may mean, I do not exactly know. But, anyhow, the point is that there will be a Corporation and a Corporation with wide powers and—I imagine—with control over primary and secondary education.

Now, we must know, the case of Chandernagore is somewhat different from the case of other foreign possessions in India which still continue to be foreign possessions. Chandernagore happens to be a very small area and it is obviously impossible to consider it as a unit by itself. It is too small, too near to Calcutta—almost in the suburbs of Calcutta, almost forming a part of it—that it cannot be considered as a separate unit. This does not apply to other areas, although the broad principles we had laid down previously can be applied *mutatis mutandis* to all areas, big or small. The broad principles we have laid down are: that we shall respect the laws, customs, language, religion etc., of those areas and not make any vital or big change in them without reference to the people.

We cannot obviously consider Chandernagore as an autonomous unit. The next best thing was an autonomous Corporation and that we are giving. In a larger area of the other foreign possessions which are still foreign, we have considered it in a somewhat different way—naturally—and maintaining, perhaps, their identity at least in the near future, till the people themselves considered this matter.

Now, having made this question of Corporation very clear and the fact that this is a Merger Bill, therefore, the amendments, I submit, do not come in.

I should like just to say one word about what Mr. Chatterjee said. He said that Chandernagore was far in advance, that is, Chandernagore under the French rule was far in advance of the rest of India. I have no desire to compare or to say that Chandernagore was better or worse, but, perhaps, the picture that Mr. Chatterjee drew was slightly exaggerated. I will read from Dr. Amarnath Jha's report:—

> "It should be remembered that the French Government in their Decree of November 7, 1947.." "(observe the date, that is after Indian Independence, after the pressure of the effect of Indian Independence began to be felt; then a decree was passed there)".. gave 'financial and administrative autonomy' to the Free City and that this autonomy was enjoyed until May, 1950. This explains the almost universal desire that, within the orbit of the West Bengal Government, Chandernagore should have a larger measure of autonomy than is enjoyed by other cities. A summary of the Decree will reveal, however, that the so-called autonomy was severely restricted. It stipulated that the legislation in force for the Municipal Elections in the French Establishments in India shall be applicable to the elections of the Municipal Assembly of Chandernagore....etc. The President of the Conseil du Government in Council had the power to declare acts and deliberations null and void, and to dissolve or suspend the Assembly."

I just wished to make the position clear. There is no particular point in that; it is only a historical fact.

There are one or two more points. I submit, that in these circumstances, after the West Bengal Assembly has approved of this Bill, another attempt

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to amend it may lead to certain complications and difficulties. But, there is one amendment which I am prepared to accept if the House so desires, which, I think, will not create any such difficulty. That is the amendment in clause 19, about the period. Clause 19, sub-clause (3) says:

> "(3) No power under sub-section (1) or sub-section (2) shall be exercised by the Central Government, or as the case may be, the State Government after the expiry of one year from the appointed day."

That is, the power had been given to meet emergencies. I am prepared to accept Mr. Chatterjee's suggestion that this one year may be extended to three years. I do not think that would make any vital difference in the main body of the Bill.

I might mention again that, apart from this question of the West Bengal Assembly etc., having agreed, we are proceeding on the basis of a protocol, some kind of a treaty with the French Government, and we have to keep within the terms of that; we cannot go beyond that.

Now in regard to subvention, to which Mr. Chatterjee referred, there is no doubt that we shall help Chandernagore, but, obviously, it is not possible for me to mention any kind or give any idea of how or to what extent that help will be given.

I submit, Sir, that this Bill should be considered and passed today. The hon. Member who proposed that the consideration should be postponed and sent for eliciting public opinion or some such thing really meant—it practically means opposition—that the Bill should be rejected. It would be a strange anti climax to all that has happened. He started by saying that he was very keen on immediate merger, and the whole burden of his speech was not to do it, and postpone it indefinitely. It is very strange.

I trust that after the statement I have made and the assurances I have given, this House will accept the Bill as it is, subject to that one minor change of three years for one year in clause 19(3).

Shri Venkatraman *rose—*

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is it necessary? After the speeches of the two hon. Members, Shri Tushar Chatterjea coming from Chandernagore and Shri N. C. Chatterjee who expects to represent Chandernagore, and after the elaborate statement made by the Prime Minister, I do not think any more speeches are necessary. Has the Deputy Minister anything more to say?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: No, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Then I shall put the question. Need I put the amendment to the vote of the House?

Shri Tushar Chatterjea: My other amendments, to the clauses, may be put. I am prepared to withdraw this.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: When the other amendments come, I shall place them before the House, if they are in order of course.

Has the hon. Member leave of the House to withdraw his amendment (for circulating the Bill)?

The amendment was, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

> "That the Bill to provide for the merger of Chandernagore into the State of West Bengal and for matters connected therewith, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We shall now take the Bill clause by clause. So far as Clause 2 is concerned, is any amendment going to be moved?

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: I do not move my amendment.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 3.— *(Chandernagore to form part of West Bengal)*

Shri Tushar Chatterjea: I beg to move:

In page 2, line 12, add at the end:

"and also by taking such measures as may be necessary for setting up, through election on the basis of adult franchise, a municipal corporation for Chandernagore with powers to manage both primary and secondary educational institutions and the hospitals in addition to normal municipal affairs and with right to get subvention from the State Government, if necessary."

I have already spoken about it.

Shri Anil K. Chanda: I do not accept the amendment.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

In page 2, line 12, add at the end:

"and also by taking such measures as may be necessary for setting up, through election on the basis of adult franchise, a municipal corporation for Chandernagore with powers to manage both primary and secondary educational institutions and the hospitals in addition to normal municipal affairs and with right to get subvention from the State Government, if necessary."

The motion was negatived.

Sardar A. S. Saigal (Bilaspur): Sir, I do not wish to move my amendment.

Shri M. D. Ramasami (Aruppukkottai): I beg to move:

In page 2, after line 12, add:

"(3) A municipal corporation for Chandernagore shall be set up with 25 elected citizens of the city to be so elected under adult franchise, and with wider powers and exercising control and administration over the departments of health and secondary education over and above its municipal functions. The finances of the corporation may be augmented by means of subvention from State Excise and other duties."

Shri Venkataraman: Sir, may I point out that this amendment would be barred, because we have rejected the amendment of Mr. Tushar Chatterjea on the same lines. The central idea is the corporation with elected members and adult franchise with powers for delegation, etc.

Shri K. K. Basu (Diamond Harbour): It is a modified idea.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I leave it to the House.

Shri M. D. Ramasami: The two hon. Members who spoke before me have discussed in detail about the amendments they require in the Bill.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member does not hail from Chandernagore!

Shri M. D. Ramasami: I would like to speak on two questions only, regarding the legislative privileges, and the corporation on which of course the Prime Minister has given his opinion.

In recommendation No. V of the Jha Commission Report the Commission has recommended in the most clear terms that Chandernagore should be entitled to elect a member to the West Bengal Legislative Assembly. And in paragraph 6 of the Government's decision, placed before Parliament on 8th May 1954, the Government of India accepted this recommendation in the following terms:

"It should be possible to make Chandernagore an additional constituency...."

Shri Anil K. Chanda: Is he referring to some other clause?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He is referring to clause 3 to which he has given an amendment. Does it relate to clause 3, to Chandernagore forming part of West Bengal?

Shri M. D. Ramasami: I am making a speech.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It must be relevant to this amendment and to clause 3. It is not quite relevant.

Mr. M. D. Ramasami: I want to speak on clause 3 also.

> "It should be possible to make Chandernagore an additional constituency for the State Legislative Assembly until the next general elections."

It may be noted here that at no stage of the pronouncements of the Government of India the question of the addition of any other territory to the town of Chandernagore has been contemplated or hinted. And at no time of the consultation with the people of this territory, the question of the need for any addition of territory to it for making it an Assembly constituency has been mentioned or discussed. It has clearly been recognised from the beginning and accepted and taken for granted that in view of the special and peculiar status which this town has been enjoying hitherto that it must be accorded special treatment so far as its legislative rights are concerned. There appeared to linger no dispute about this point.

In the first place I would ask Government why the same exception which has been allowed to Shillong, the same exceptional treatment which has been shown to Shillong in the Constitution, should not be allowed to Chandernagore also. If special considerations weighed with Government to treat Shillong in a special way, I think there are such considerations to treat Chandernagore also on the same basis. At least it is morally binding on the Government of India in view of the undertakings which have been given in this behalf by them.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member wants special treatment to be given to Chandernagore similar to the treatment given in the Constitution to Shillong as a tribal area.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: It is not a tribal area.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The analogy may not be appropriate, but he wants special treatment for Chandernagore.

Shri M. D. Ramasami: In Parliament, the Prime Minister said that during the long period of foreign control, administrative, cultural, educational and judicial systems have grown up in these areas, which are different from those prevailing in the rest of India. Are not people who have enjoyed such a high level of administration entitled to a special treatment as is given to Shillong? That is my question.

Article 170 (2) of the Constitution seeks to fix a ceiling only in respect of the number of Members to be elected from a legislative constituency and does not fix a minimum of population for a constituency. That being so, there appears no need for this proposed addition of territory mentioned in lines 9 and 10 of page 3 of the Bill. Even clause 6 (a) leaves the option to the President to add any territory or not to add it. The will of the Chandarnagore people is that the option should be in favour of the latter, that is, not adding any territory to Chandernagore. The feeling of the people of Chandernagore in regard to the implications of the Bill in the present form is this. As the practice stands at present, a legislative constituency normally has a population ranging from 100,000 to 150,000. If this practice would be adopted with regard to Chandernagore, it may happen that Chandernagore will never get individual representation at all. It may invariably happen that no voice representing Chandernagore could succeed

in getting elected for the simple reason that the territory over and above Chandernagore being naturally larger than Chandernagore and being of a pattern entirely different from it, they are likely to combine against Chandernagore. Chandernagore may not get any representation at all. If, therefore, the addition of territory is not so limited as to give Chandernagore always a predominant voice so far as population is concerned, Government of India would certainly fail to keep their promise in regard to forming Chandernagore into a constituency. If the Government are earnest in keeping their promise, I would request the Government to give a solemn assurance that if at all any addition is thought necessary, such an addition should not make the population of Chandernagore exceed 75,000 which has been laid down as a basic minimum for a constituency.

I must lay emphasis on the Government of India giving serious thought to the keeping of their promise, because this legislation is likely to serve as a forerunner of several such legislations likely to come up in the near future, in this House and enclaves of foreign territory in this country are bound to be influenced by the conduct of the Government of India in this regard. In fact, their decision and conduct in this connection are likely to guide the future conduct of these enclaves which are struggling hard at present to free themselves from foreign yoke.

In para. 7 of the Government of India's decision, the formation of Chandernagore into a municipal corporation has been accepted. But the question of legislating for this purpose has been left to the West Bengal Legislative Council. As some of my hon. friends said here, the people of Chandernagore wish that a definite mention should be made in this Bill in regard to how this Chandernagore Corporation would be formed.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I think we have disposed of that matter.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He has tabled an independent amendment.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I know. He is arguing entirely on the basis of the matter which has been disposed of.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The amendment of Shri Tushar Chatterjea was disposed of. This is somewhat different from that amendment.

Shri M. D. Ramasami: In view of the assurance given by the Prime Minister, I do not want to proceed further.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I must say, Sir, that I cannot accept what the hon. Member has said for the simple reason that I have not understood it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Need I put this amendment to the vote of the House? The question is:

In page 2, after line 12, add:

"(3) A municipal corporation for Chandernagore shall be set up with 25 elected citizens of the city to be so elected under adult franchise, and with wider powers and exercising control and administration over the departments of health and secondary education over and above its municipal functions. The finances of the corporation may be augmented by means of subvention from State Excise and other duties."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There are no amendments to clause 4. I will therefore put clauses 3 and 4 together. The question is:

"That clauses 3 and 4 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 3 and 4 were added to the Bill.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: I do not move the amendments.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 5 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 5 was added to the Bill.

Clause 6. — *(Representation of Chandernagore in the Legislative Assembly of West Bengal)*

Shri Tushar Chatterjea: I beg to move:

In page 3, lines 9 to 11, omit:

"whether with the addition of such areas of the Constituencies as may be determined by the President or without such addition".

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It has already been disposed of. It is barred. It is under clause 3. There are no amendments up to clause 16. I will put all the clauses from 6 to 15, both inclusive. The question is:

"That clauses 6 to 15 stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 6 to 15 were added to the Bill.

Clause 16. —*(Existing authorities and officers to continue in Chandernagore)*

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: I beg to move:

In page 5, line 32, add at the end:

"and the service of employees who are in service under the administration of Chandernagore, immediately before the appointed day, shall be retained and the existing conditions of service shall be maintained or if they so choose, they can accept conditions of service as they exist under the Government of West Bengal."

The purpose of this amendment is very simple and obvious. It does not require much explanation. There is a feeling of insecurity among the employees of the local administration, who mostly know French and do not know English or Hindi, that they may be sent away in the future by the future administrators. Moreover, we have to remember that these people are accustomed to the French method of keeping accounts and making correspondence, which is distinctly different from our methods. I have received some representation from the local people in this regard. I think there will be no harm if we incorporate this proviso in clause 16. I request the hon. Prime Minister to accept my amendment, and I commend my amendment for the acceptance of the House.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy's amendment is totally unnecessary. Under the Protocol, our Agreement with the French Government, we have had to assure them about this. We are bound down. There is no choice for anybody. I shall read out that part of the Protocol in regard to services.

"Such civil servants and employees of the French Establishments in India who opt to retain their nationality and elect, within three months of the coming into force of the Treaty, to serve their original administration shall be permitted to do so, and

Such civil servants and employees of the Free Town of Chandernagore and those of the French Establishments in India whom the Government of the Republic of India does not desire to retain in its service shall be given three months notice of the termination of their services within one month from the date of the coming into force of the Treaty and shall be entitled to be paid fair compensation for the premature termination of their services."

Both the three months and one month are over. The question does not arise now.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Does the hon. Member want me to put the amendment to the House?

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: No. I want one more clarification. I want

to know from the Prime Minister whether we cannot incorporate what is contained in the Protocol.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: It is not done. The Protocol is binding on everybody: Government of India and the West Bengal Government. It is an International Treaty. We cannot go beyond that treaty.

4 P.M.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Need I put it to the House?

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: No. I do not press it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 16 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 16 was added to the Bill.

Clause 17.—(*Extension of laws to Chandernagore*)

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: I beg to move:

In page 5, after line 36, add:

"Provided that notwithstanding anything herein before contained, all pending cases will be continued to be tried, until their final disposal, in accordance with the law and procedure to which they were subject at the time they were instituted."

Again, I want a clarification from the Prime Minister—whether there is anything contained in the Protocol regarding this matter. The purpose is simple, that if the pending cases which were filed before the appointed date are tried under the laws of the West Bengal Government, it may give rise to legal anomalies and....

Shri Venkataraman: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, it is covered. Will you please see (d) of clause 18?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: More than fully covered.

Shri Venkataraman: It reads:

"any investigation, legal proceeding or remedy in respect of such right, privilege, obligation, liability, penalty, forfeiture or punishment as aforesaid;

"and any such investigation, legal proceeding or remedy may be instituted, continued, or enforced, and any such penalty, forfeiture or punishment may be imposed as if this Act had not been passed."

That is to say, the old laws will continue in respct of pending cases.

Shri T. N. Singh (Banaras Distt.—East): I think it is not necessary.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: I cannot say now whether it covers.

Pandit K. C. Sharma (Meerut Distt.—South): It covers. Read it again.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: Anyway, I have got a little doubt. If it covers, my amendment will be redundant. I do not want to press it. I want the opinion of the Prime Minister in this matter.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Actual provision is made.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: I am doubtful. I cannot say whether this provision (d) of clause 18 will cover my amendment.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Sub-clause (1) of clause 18 is:

"Repeal of corresponding laws and savings". Sub-clause (2) reads:

"The repeal by sub-section (1) of any corresponding law shall not affect....."

Therefore, the existing law will continue regarding legal proceedings etc. I do not think the amendment is necessary. I take it Mr. Gurupadaswamy does not press his amendment.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: I do not press it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There are no amendments to clause 18.

The question is:

"That clauses 17 and 18 stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 17 and 18 were added to the Bill

Clause 19. -(*Power to remove difficulties*).

Shri Tushar Chatterjea: I beg to move:

In page 6, after line 32, add:

"Provided that all provisions made under sub-sections (1) and (2) are preceded by an enquiry into the public opinion of Chandernagore.

Provided further that any order made under sub-section (1) and (2) do not debar the formation of the municipal corporation with powers to manage both primary and secondary educational institutions and hospitals in addition to normal municipal affairs."

About the first part, I want to make sure that for any change that the Government of Bengal want to make by exercising their power to remove difficulties, they must at least hold an enquiry into public opinion and then exercise that power; and the second part.....

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I am unable to accept this because the second part says something about not debarring the formation of the municipal corporation. It goes back to the same thing in an inverted way.

As to the first, it is not very happily worded. It only says "preceded by an enquiry into public opinion of Chandernagore". Why should there be an enquiry into public opinion? What he means is public opinion should be consulted.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is what he wants.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: That is not what he says in this amendment. Anyhow, we cannot put down that vague phrase in a Bill of this kind, that for every little thing it should consult. Consult how? This is not the proper way of doing it. If there is a corporation, the corporation will speak for it. There are other ways of public opinion being known.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Very well, what about the other one amendment No. 6.

Shri N. C. Chatterjee: That has been accepted by the Prime Minister.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: So far as amendment No. 5 is concerned, does he press it?

The question is:

In page 6, after line 32, add:

"Provided that all provisions made under sub-sections (1) and (2) are preceded by an enquiry into the public opinion of Chandernagore.

Provided further that any order made under sub-section (1) and (2) do not debar the formation of the municipal corporation with powers to manage both primary and secondary educational institutions and hospitals in addition to normal municipal affairs."

The motion was negatived.

Shri Tushar Chatterjea: I beg to move:

In page 6, line 35, for "one year" substitute "three years".

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

In page 6, line 35, for "one year". substitute "three years".

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 19, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 19, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Are there any amendments to clause 17 No.

The question is:

"That clause 1, the Title and the Enacting Formula stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, the Title and the Enacting Formula were added to the Bill.

Shri Anil K. Chanda: I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I feel this is a momentous day in the history of our nation. After 1947, I think today is most memorable because, for the first time after seven or eight years, we are integrating a pocket formally and finally which belonged to France—French imperialism.

On this occasion, we are also reminded of the policy pursued by foreign Government in respect of other pockets. I am very sorry to say that though we have achieved national independence, although we have passed seven to eight years we have not taken any quick and expeditious steps to integrate other enclaves. I feel sorry to say that the policy of the Government is mostly responsible for this delay. In the case of Chandernagore it had taken nearly eight years. Though the referendum was taken in the year 1949, we have waited for nearly five years to integrate this pocket into our territory, So, I say there has been too much delay. When the matter was decided in 1949, Government failed to take other steps to bring that particular territory into Indian territory.

And also, Sir, I must observe that the policy of the Government should have been so shaped as to enable us to pass one measure for all the French pockets. It would have been possible. Instead of going to integrate one pocket after another by piecemeal methods, after long delays, it would have been better and more happy for us to pass one measure, one law, integrating all these foreign enclaves. But, unfortunately, that has not been done, and the Government's policy is responsible for this.

However, I feel happy at least in a limited way that a foreign pocket has been, after all integrated finally into our land, and this may form a milestone in the movement for integration of other foreign pockets.

I wish that hereafter at least, Government should not follow a policy of indecision and delay. They should not follow a policy of what I would call "lame duck" in this matter. This policy of 'lame duck' has been responsible for too much of postponement in the integration of these colonial pockets in India. I wish that Government should hereafter bring one or two more measures of this nature, and try to settle the problems of these colonial pockets in India soon.

I endorse this measure. It is a very happy measure. Though it is simple and formal, yet it is a very important measure, because it marks a milestone in the freedom movement of India. I commend this measure for the acceptance of this House.

[SHRI PATASKAR *in the Chair.*]

Shri Venkataraman: Before I congratulate either Government or my hon. friend the Deputy Minister of External Affairs, I really wanted to congratulate Shri N. C. Chatterjee. If most of us win elections by scorning delights and living laborious days, today, he has been elected to a constituency, without fighting an election, and he has added to the territory under his domain.

[Shri Venkataraman]

It is indeed a very happy occasion when India feels proud that a part of the brethren of ours, who have been separated from us, have become one with us in law, and will be sharing the joys and sorrows of the motherland along with us. I am very glad indeed that the debate has not raised any acrimonious points, thanks to the assurances which the Prime Minister has given. It is very important, because some of us are interested in our kith and kin in the French pockets in South India. Some of them have been liberated. Some of them are undergoing that process. Many young man have undergone a great deal of suffering.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao (Khammam): Some have laid down their lives also. *(Interruptions).*

Shri Venkataraman: They have undergone lot of suffering for the sake of uniting with the motherland. And they are looking forward to the happy days when they will also have a Bill in this House, merging their territories with the State of Madras.

On this occasion, it is unnecessary for anyone to grow eloquent and say what will happen if they merge in this territory. One has only to go through the history of the events which led to the final passing of this Bill, to see how at every stage, the wishes of the people of those territories have been respected. It is true that my hon. friend Shri Tushar Chatterjea wanted some more assurances to be given, because he felt that it will go a long way in allaying suspicion, not so much of the people of Chandernagore, but of the people outside, in Pondicherry and other places. Let them not go under the impression that the Government of India will not stand by the assurances given to the people of those territories, who are engaged in this great struggle of liberation, and the great struggle for merger with the mother-country. The people of Pondicherry as well as the other French pockets as well as Goa are eagerly looking forward for the day when they will come into the territories of their motherland. The culture, language, traditions and institutions of Chandernagore have all been preserved by this Bill. There are a few things to be done by executive action, and the speech of the Chief Minister of West Bengal in the Assembly as well as in the Council makes it abundantly clear that all those actions which have to be done through the executive will be carried out.

So far as the representation about which Shri Tushar Chatterjea laid great stress in his speech is concerned, I would like to invite his attention to the language of the clause in this Bill. After all, the clause reads 'with or without the addition of the territories'. The delimitation of the constituencies is not in the hands of the West Bengal Government. It is with the Election Commission. I think, even now, it is open to the Election Commission to have a constituency consisting exclusively of the free town of Chandernagore. If the Election Commission thinks that it is not possible, then it may add a few more villages, but in no event will the people of Chandernagore lose their dominant voice. I want to assure my hon. friend Shri M. D. Ramasami that under no circumstances could the dominant voice of the people of Chandernagore be submerged, because under article 170 of the Constitution, there shall be one member for not more than 75,000 of population. The population of Chandernagore is already 50,000, and even if the Election Commission adds anything more, it can at best add only 25,000 of population, and the people of Chandernagore will always have the dominant voice. I am not saying that they will add, but as I said earlier, it is open to the Election Commission either to add or not to add. But that is a matter in which Government have no consent or voice.

I warmly welcome this Bill, and I hope this will be the forerunner of the merging of other foreign pockets in this country with the motherland.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

INDIAN TARIFF (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Tariff Act, 1934, be taken into consideration."

The main object of the Bill, as has been stated in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, is to continue protection to three industries, namely, sago globules and tapioca pearls, coated abrasives, and sericulture.

As required under section 16 (2) of the Tariff Commission Act, 1951, copies of the Commission's reports in these cases, and Government's Resolutions thereon have already been laid on the Table of the House. Short notes giving the main recommendations of the Commission and decisions of Government thereon have also been circulated to the Members of the House. I feel, therefore, that I need not traverse the same ground now.

The sago globules and tapioca pearls industry is at present localised in the Salem town and surrounding villages in South India, and it provides a welcome source of additional income to the agriculturists of that area. The industry is enjoying tariff protection since 1951. During the period of protection, it has made considerable progress, and there has been an increase in the number of units from 40 in 1950, to 125, which are all run on small cottage industry scale. After making a detailed investigation into the industry, the Commission has come to the conclusion that the industry is one which requires encouragement and assistance both as a source of employment to the small man, and as supplier of processed food for the invalid. Government have accepted the Commission's recommendation for continuation of protection in this case, for another two years, *i.e.* till 31st December 1956.

Coming to the coated abrasives industry, this industry has enjoyed tariff protection since 1947, and during this fairly long period of protection, it has made steady progress, and there has also been some improvement in the quality of indigenous abrasives. I wish to mention here that coated abrasives are essential consumable stores, and are extensively used in many industries, especially engineering works, automobile works, railway workshops etc. The industry came to be established during the last war. That was a period of scarcity of supply created by war conditions, and although in ordinary times, no one is conscious of the vital importance of a common place item of this kind, yet during the war, there were times when a shortage of abrasives gave cause for anxiety to many important industries including the Railways. So, we feel that we must avoid the recurrence of a similar contingency.

The Commission has recommended that a further spell of protection for another year, *i.e.* up to 31st December 1955, would enable the industry to consolidate its position. Government have accepted this recommendation to continue protection to the coated abrasive industry. The House will also recognise that what is proposed is only to continue the existing rates of protective duty for a further period of one year, and no additional burden is there on the consumer. The Commission, has, however, excluded emery fillets from the scope of this inquiry, as they are not manufactured at present in India, and it is accordingly proposed to exclude them from the scope of protection.

Now, I come to the third industry, namely, sericulture industry. As hon. Members are aware, it is an old established industry in the country, which is practised largely in the rural

[Shri Karmarkar]

areas as a useful congenial cottage industry for the agriculturists. Owing to organisational and technical backwardness of the people engaged in that industry, it must be admitted that the progress of the industry has been, unfortunately, halting and slow, and the industry was exposed to severe competition from China and Japan and sometimes from Italy. The rural population employed in it are rather slow to understand improvements in technique and organisation and Government cannot afford to let them down on this account. Despite these difficulties, the industry has survived and efforts to keep it alive, we feel, must continue.

The main centres, as hon. Members are aware, of the sericulture industry are in the States of Mysore, West Bengal, Madras and Jammu and Kashmir. In Jammu and Kashmir, the industry is run as a State monopoly. Other centres are in Assam, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bombay, Madhya Pradesh, Madhya Bharat, Bihar and Orissa.

The Tariff Commission has recognised the importance of sericulture as a cottage industry deserving every encouragement from Government. After examining the problem in all its aspects, the Commission has recommended that the protection granted to the industry should be continued for a further period of five years, *i.e.* till the 31st December 1958. Government have accepted this recommendation. Government have also accepted the Commission's recommendation regarding rates of protective duty on silk waste and noils, noil yarn and silk sewing thread. The Commission has recommended reductions in duties in respect of the other protected categories like raw silk, silk fabrics etc. We are not at all sure that a lower rate of duty will not make it impossible for Indian raw silk to withstand competition from imported silk for which there is a considerable amount of consumers preference. What is more important is that even now the market prices of imported silk are much higher than the landed cost and a reduction of duty might not be passed on to the consumer and might only swell the high profits of the importer. If the lowering of prices to the consumer has to be achieved, a simpler course would be to liberalise imports. This will be separately considered. As things are, there seems to be no reason why the existing rates of duty on raw silk should not be reduced.

The Commission has also recommended considerable reduction of the import duty on silk fabrics. Here again, the Government has decided that the existing rates of duty should continue particularly because our import duty on cotton piecegoods is high and it would be hardly justifiable to have a lower import duty on a luxury item like silk piecegoods.

In order to increase the production of raw silk, reduce its cost and to improve its quality, to keep the technical basis of the industry abreast of the latest developments and to consolidate the work already done in different States, the Central Silk Board has drawn up a programme of work for intensifying the work relating to distribution of mulberry grafts, modernisation of reeling machinery, improving marketing conditions through co-operatives, deputation of officers for higher studies etc.

I would not like to detain the House on this fairly simple matter, and if any points arise during the debate, I shall certainly be very happy to reply to them.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy (Salem): This is a simple Bill.....

Shri A. M. Thomas (Ernakulam): The motion has not been placed before the House.

Mr. Chairman: Yes. Let me place the motion before the House.

Motion moved:

> **"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Tariff Act, 1934, be taken into consideration."**

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: This is a simple Bill and ordinarily I would not have liked to intervene in this debate.

Mr. Chairman: It is a very simple measure.

Shri Karmarkar: It is very simple.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Ordinarily, I would not have intervened in this matter at all but for the extraordinary situation created in West Bengal in respect of sago. Sago is manufactured in South India out of tapioca root which is grown in Salem district.....

Shri Matthen (Thiruvellah): Why not Travancore-Cochin first?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Tapioca is grown in my district and in the State of Travancore-Cochin. The tapioca industry benefits not merely agriculturists, but a cottage industry has grown out of this. About 125 factories —small institutions—have sprung up in Salem district and it is giving employment to over 50,000 people. The biggest market for this sago product is the Calcutta market. There for the past 10 or 14 years this has been sold as sago. All of a sudden, in July the Corporation of Calcutta have seized about 10,000 bags of this commodity of the estimated value of about Rs. 40 lakhs. First of all, the Corporation thought that it was adulterated stuff. They could not prove the charge of adulteration and dropped it. Then they fell back upon section 420 of the IPC and charged a number of merchants with misbranding and cheating. The cases are still pending. Finding that even this charge cannot be sustained, the West Bengal Government have now issued a notification dated 13th September 1954 in order to boost up a case which cannot be sustained which, I wish to impress on this House and on the hon. Minister, is directly at variance with the intention of the Central Government. The notification runs thus this is from the Calcutta Gazette dated September 13, 1954:

> "No. 8100/M.IC-107/54.....In exercise of the power conferred by clause (1) of sub-section (1) of section 462 of the Calcutta Municipal Act.....the Governor is pleased to notify the article of food, mentioned below, for the purpose of that clause, that is to say—sago (*sabudana*).
>
> "2. In exercise of the power conferred by paragraph (xiv) of the conditions contained in sub-section (1) of section 462 of the said Act, the Governor is pleased to prescribe in the case of sago (*sabudana*) that it shall fulfil the following conditions, that is to say, it shall be exclusively derived from the starch obtained from the pith of the trunks of the sago palm such as....."

It is some Latin names with which I will not trouble the reporters. By this it is made clear so far as the Calcutta Corporation is concerned that sago means only starch derived from the sago pith.

Now, look at the other picture. It was only on the 16th that I put a question with regard to this seizure of sago in Calcutta—starred question No. 1024. The answer that is given is very relevant and pertinent. I asked whether it was a fact that about 20,000 maunds of sago valued at over Rs. 40 lakhs had been seized by the Calcutta Branch of the Enforcement Police recently. The answer was 'Yes'. Then I asked whether it was a fact that the analysis of this commodity had revealed that it was not genuine sago but tapioca globule of lower nutritive value. The answer to this from the hon. Minister was 'No'. I further asked whether it was a fact that what the people had been purchasing for the last ten years was not genuine sago, but only a fake commodity. The answer, again, was 'No'.

Shri V. P. Nayar (Chirayinkil): How does it arise out of this?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: I am coming to that. The point is this, that the Centre is seeking to give protection, but it is protection only on paper.

Mr. Chairman: This legislation seeks to continue protection to sago globules and tapioca pearls.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: But the definition of sago is given by various States in different forms. When the Centre means one thing and gives protection to a particular commodity, it is left to the States to interpret the meaning of 'sago' in whatever way they like. How then can you have this protection? What is the effect of the protection? It is a dead letter, it is a protection on paper.

Shri A. M. Thomas: Have not those prosecutions been withdrawn?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: No. Not even the goods have been released. The prosecutions are still pending.

Shri Karmarkar: I have told my hon. friend that the prosecutions have been withdrawn so far as the West Bengal Government is concerned.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: They have not been withdrawn. *(Interruptions.)*

Mr. Chairman: I think there is a distinction being made. I find from the Statement of Objects and Reasons that sago globules and tapioca pearls are different things.....

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: The trouble is not about the name; it is a question of the content of it. They want to say that it should be confined only to a particular product derived from a particular pith and nothing else. That is not the intention of the Centre. If you will kindly see the answer given by the hon. Minister to part (c) of my question on the 16th, he says:

> "No, Sir. Sago, as defined by the Central Committee for Food Standards, is a starch product derived from the sago palm or from tapioca root".

Now, when the hon. Minister gives this answer to my question, it is tacitly understood that the Central Government have accepted this definition of the Central Committee for Food Standards. That is the stand taken. This definition is not accepted by the State Government and they are giving a different interpretation and are ignoring studiously the words 'tapioca root'.

Shri Karmarkar: Sir, may I interrupt the hon. Member because this issue is likely to create confusion.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: I have not said anything to create confusion.

Shri Karmarkar: Not what he said; I said only that it is likely to create confusion. My hon. friend need not monopolise for him that whenever I speak about confusion it applies to him.

Sir, the point was like this. It is a fact that the stuff came in the Calcutta market. Since it was a product of tapioca globules it was described as sago and something else. At an earlier stage, proceedings were taken by the police and the stuff was seized. We took up the matter with the West Bengal Government and then, so far as that action was concerned, that was withheld. Now, the Calcutta Corporation, I understand, have some proceedings in view and it is in respect of those proceedings that the stuff is still being detained.

Now, our difficulty with regard to this piece of legislation is, we are now giving protection to a particular type of industry. Here, the local production which is sought to be protected is the product made from tapioca roots. There is no gainsaying that point now. The Calcutta Corporation takes another view of the matter. They say: if this stuff comes within the description of tapioca globules we shall not proceed against that, but if you describe it otherwise we shall proceed against that. Now, our difficulty is, howsoever you may describe this, the

stuff coming from outside, what comes of the name of sago, is manufactured from different raw materials. Here, we manufacture from tapioca roots, in some other places I understand that it is manufactured from beet root.

The point which my learned friend was labouring amounts to this: that we here want to give protection to this tapioca globules industry—Sago or *sabudana,* by whatever name you may call it—and a particular Government or Corporation takes a particular action. Now, I think there will be other formus or methods to pursue this question. It is not going to help my friend by quoting in regard to the action that is being taken.

Mr. Chairman: I am convinced that so far as the present Bill is concerned, whatever is happening in the Calcutta Corporation and all that has nothing to do with it.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: The difficulty is this. What is the Tariff Commission's report; what are the terms of reference; what is the resolution of Government; why is it being extended; what is being done in the rest of the country; these are the problems arising out of this. I am reading from the Report of the Indian Tariff Board, 1950. You will be pleased to see that this protection is being sought to be extended on the basis of the Reports of 1950 and 1954. Now, going back to 1950, the terms of reference were these:

> "After a preliminary scrutiny, the Government of India, in the Ministry of Commerce, remitted to the Tariff Board for investigation the claim of the sago industry to protection or assistance in their Resolution No. 1-T(4)/49, dated 12th May, 1949."

Then, lower down in the same report it is given:

> "Only tapioca globules are manufactured by the indigenous manufacturers. The imported article is manufactured out of tapioca or sago, and is sold in India as sago globules, popularly known as *sabudana.* The inquity is, therefore, confined to tapioca globules, commercially known as *sabudana.*"

Now, the report is, therefore, with regard to tapioca and nothing else and the Government by the resolution have accepted this report.

Mr. Chairman: The Government is not disputing that and it has been made clear by the hon. Minister. What is manufatcured in India is manufactured from tapioca roots.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Sir, it is not such an easy matter. The Government of West Bengal themsleves have done it differently. When a matter is *sub judice* when the prosecution is launched on a particular basis and finding that the case cannot be sustained, this Government of Bengal itself lends itself to the contingencies of the Corporation and then changes the law.

Mr. Chairman: What the Government of West Bengal is doing is irrelevant so far as this Bill is concerned: which seeks to give protection to sago as well as to tapioca.

Shri Karmarkar: His comment is all right, but the forum is wrong. It should be taken up in the West Bengal Legislature.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: I may be wrong. My contention may not be upheld. But I am seeking the hon. Minister to accept the position.

Mr. Chairman: How is it relevant for this purpose?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: For *this* purpose, let it be defined, let it form part of the Tariff Act. I have a right to urge that. And it is for that purpose I am seeking to move an amendment. My amendment No. 5 is exactly, word for word, what the hon. Minister said in reply to my question.

The Tariff Commission Report was accepted, and as you would be pleased to see, paragraph 5 of the Report says that this is made out of tapioca root. And mostly all these factories are

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located in Salem district, and the tapioca comes from Travancore-Cochin and adjacent places. There can be no mistake whatsoever that what the Government wanted to protect was sago made out of tapioca.

The question is this. We go and purchase sugar. Sugar might be produced out of cane, beet or potato starch. You might ask for alcohol. It might be made out of molasses or rice or some other starchy stuff. We do not go and enquire how it is made, how it is derived. That is not the point.

Shri A. M. Thomas: According to my friend the prosecutions are pending. In that case, will not all these observations be *sub judice*?

Shri Matthen: What have they got to do with this Bill?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: You have not evidently been following. You just now came into the House.

Mr. Chairman: If you look to the Statement of Objects and Reasons, even the Government make a distinction between sago and tapioca.

Shri V. P. Nayar: They are not the same.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Tapioca pearls are different. It is the 1954 report of the Tariff Commission on which this Bill is based. It is only after accepting that report that they are following it with this bill. Throughout that report the term 'tapioca globules' is treated as synonymous with sago globules.

Mr. Chairman: That is your opinion.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: It is not my opinion but that of the Tariff Commission which the Government have accepted.

Shri Karmarkar: If my friend will pardon another interruption I might inform the House that we are sending our opinion to the West Bengal Government and other Governments. But taking it even a point further—I am not trying to reduce it to an absurdity —but suppose we put a foot-note under some relevant clause of this Bill "Explanation: The action being taken at Calcutta is absolutely wrong in our view". Suppose Parliament says so, assuming it for a moment, it cannot bind the West Bengal Government.

Mr. Chairman: Parliament cannot say it.

Shri Karmarkar: And Parliament cannot say it.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: I am not referring to the particular cases pending in Calcutta. You intend to protect a particular commodity. You have in your mind a commodity which is well defined by the Central Committee for Food Standards. You have accepted that. If that is so, say so in the Tariff Act itself. Define the thing you are going to give protection for. If you will read amendment No. 5, that is very clear.

Mr. Chairman: We shall come to it later.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: That will show why I am moving it and why I am speaking on this Bill.

The point that I once again wish to urge is this. The intentions of the Government are very good. They want to encourage a small-scale industry and they want to give protection to it. Well and good. I am submitting to this House and trying to impress on this House that the protection that they give is only protection on paper. In effect, it is a dead letter. Unless, therefore, the Centre itself through the Tariff Act gives some indication of what it means, and what it intends to protect, each State will be at liberty to interpret the provision as it likes and therefore, the Act will, in effect, become a dead letter. Therefore, I submit that the Government may be pleased to accept this, though not in the form in which I have suggested, but in some other form, so that what they intend to give protection

to may be made clear and so that it may not be open to any State Government to interpret as it likes, except to follow the definition given by the Centre.

Shri V. P. Nayar: I do not want to enter into a controversy whether the West Bengal Government's action was justifiable or not.

Mr. Chairman: As a matter of fact, I think we cannot go into that.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Yes; for obvious reasons.

Mr. Chairman: Hon. Members may avoid it. It would not be in the interests of anybody to refer to it.

Shri V. P. Nayar: The point seems to me to be this. I perfectly sympathise with my hon. friend Shri S. V. Ramaswamy because it creates a problem for his constituency.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: For your constituency also.

Shri V. P. Nayar: I am coming to that. There is a vast section of people in Bengal who have been taking tapioca pearls for sometime now, thinking that it is sago. There was some error somewhere. The Government have not used the machinery at their disposal to correct the misunderstanding. Whether it is sago derived from a palm which belongs to the natural order of Palmaceae or from tapioca derived from another plant of the order of Euphorbiaecae, so far as the people were concerned, they were accustomed to take sago and also tapioca globules as sago. That is what has been done. I do not propose to enter into more details on this.

The Bill, although it is simple, is not so very simple as it seems to be, because it involves a principle. About that principle I have to say something.

You may remember that during the discussions which we had on the Commerce Ministry's demands in April last, the hon. Commerce Minister, I see him now in conference with Shri S. V. Ramaswamy.....

Shri Karmarkar: I am attending to you.

Shri V. P. Nayar:.....assured us that certain preferences which had to be given were being studied. Preferences were being given to certain countries in the matter of duties. Under various agreements,—I also find in the resolutions—there has to be a distinction in the duties to be imposed on imports from various countries. One reason as you find in the Resolution of the Government dated 18th May is, that by virtue of the Indo-British Trade Agreement, some sort of a discriminatory duty is necessary. In that connection, the hon. Commerce Minister also said that by June or July, this House will be informed about the various implications of the Agreements such as the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs. We, I am sorry to say, are yet to receive his considered views.

This question of discriminatory or preferential duty on imports from various countries raises another question. I could have understood if the enquiry was solely confined to how to protect the tapioca globule or sago manufacturing industry of Salem. The Tariff Commission, which, unfortunately had nobody who knew anything about tapioca or about the people who grew tapioca, went into the question and came to the conclusion—it is very interesting to see that—that for raising tapioca in this country, two or three persons have to be sent from Madras abroad. You will find why we from Travancore-Cochin speak on this Bill. You will be surprised to find—may I crave the indulgence of the Chair for some time?.....

Mr. Chairman: Yes.

Shri V. P. Nayar:.....that tapioca for Travancore-Cochin is a very very important matter. You will find that in such a small State as Travancore-Cochin, we have already over 525,000 acres under tapioca cultivation and we produce roughly about 1·5 million tons of tapioca in a year, even a fraction of which is produced in Mr. Ramaswamy's constituency. Hundreds of

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thousands of our people depend solely on tapioca, and tapioca prices form such a very important factor in the economy of our State.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Grow more and more tapioca.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Yes, for you, more and more brains first.

It is a problem which really affects our economy. The Tariff Commission has spent money. It has had a public hearing, of all places at Bombay, so that our cultivators from Travancore-Cochin could go and give evidence at Bombay as to how this problem has to be tackled. I am sorry to say that the Tariff Commission in this particular matter has not had the services of anybody who knew anything about tapioca.

Even, with all our limitations, when we grow 1·5 million tons of tapioca, we get only an average of two to three tons per acre, while in other places outside India tapioca at present is produced to the extent of ten to twelve tons. We must understand that is not because our farmers do not know the art of cultivation. Tapioca was introduced. It was not an indigenous crop in India. It was introduced and we have cultivated it. We have made very great progress on that, but so long as this Government cannot assure to the farmers a steady and fair price for the tapioca which they grow, it is impossible to increase the yield. If my hon. friend Mr. Karmarkar goes to Travancore-Cochin, I can at random show him.....

Shri Karmarkar: I am coming.

Shri V. P. Nayar:.....several places in which ordinary farmers, without using your sulphates and nitrates, have produced by the sweat of their labour ten to twelve tons per acre, but there must be a proper incentive for our agriculturists to grow tapioca. It is not by protecting a small industry in this way, in this incomplete way, that you can raise the hopes of the tapioca cultivators. Tapioca cultivation has to be tackled, and has to be tackled in an entirely different way. This Government is not looking into the problems, the seriousness of the problems.

I find the Commerce Minister is very clever at statistics.

Shri Karmarkar: Thank you very much.

Shri V. P. Nayar: I find that the export of starch from India has been gradually declining in the last so many years. For easy reference I can point out to the House that in 1951-52 it was to the tune of Rs. 27·89 lakhs; in 1952-53 it was reduced to Rs. 20·84 lakhs; in 1953-54 it was only Rs. 16·62 lakhs.

Industrial starch, as you know, is a commodity which can be indigenously produced and can also be produced in such quantity and exported to the very great advantage of the cultivators. Industrial starch, on the other hand, is still being imported. You have got so many laboratories in this country. You claim that you have the National Physical Laboratory, this laboratory, that laboratory. Why is it not possible for the Government to lay down the standards of tapioca starch, for industrial starch. You only have to specify that the textile industry, for example, will take only starch of such and such mesh and to show the process. That you have not so far done. You have not tried to improve the local starch, the industrial starch which is produced from tapioca. On the other hand, you are still allowing tapioca starch to be imported.

You are having this duty *"nam ke vaste."* This does not materially affect the position at all, because we find only 200 or 300 tons are imported. Instead of that, if the tapioca starch industry on the whole had to be protected, and if Government had any scheme, it would have meant would have enabled the tapioca cultivators, who in my State alone come to thousands upon thousands, to get a fair price. This Government has not had that

prespective. There may be something else.

But here you find if it is a British colony, 35 per cent. *ad valorem* and five per cent. extra; if it is some other colony, it is forty per cent. and five per cent. extra. There is still that "imperial preference" working. But my contention now is that Government has seen the problem only from its narrowest angle. Government have not looked at the problem of tapioca, in so far as the hundreds of thousands of our cultivators are concerned. The hon. Minister may get up and say that this is only a matter which is specifically related to the tapioca globule or starch manufacturing industry at Salem. But I want Government to change their attitude.

Shri A. M. Thomas: Starch manufacturing industry is at Salem.

Shri V. P. Nayar: In regard to tapioca globules or pearls, I want Government to change their attitude. Here is a commodity which has very great potentialities for export. The hon. Commerce Minister sometimes shows himself to be very keen on developing our exports. Here is an article from which industrial starch can be produced, and I can assure you that no country in the world can compete with India, if we take up to that, and at the same time, it will also fetch a very fair price to the growers.

Now, the situation is slightly different in Travancore-Cochin. Two years or three years back, or even last year, the situation was different. The Travancore-Cochin Government and the people had and still has to depend upon supplies of rice from outside. Whenever there is short supply of rice in Travancore-Cochin, the alternative food which the people took was tapioca. Government had, therefore, imposed a ban on the export of tapioca. Now, as Shri Kidwai, says, we have plenty of rice, and according to Government's computations, the problem of rice is a problem of export. When the Government of India say that they can sell to Travancore-Cochin any amount of rice, why should there be any longer any control on the export of tapioca. I can assure the hon. Minister that if rice is available at cheap prices, at fair prices, people would take rice. People do not take tapioca just for the liking of it and in preference to rice. They only supplement the rice by using tapioca at best as a *sabji*, which some people, especially the people in the lower income groups are taking with fish. But if this Government say that there is enough rice, why not allow this tapioca to be exported. There is very great market for its products. It is not a question of there being no market. This is a problem which we will have to tackle.

Perhaps, if tapioca starch is manufactured, for purposes of export, its price may go up, and it may result in one section of the pepole having to pay more for tapioca which they consume, but it is very easy for Government to subsidise such tapioca intended for consumption.

In this matter, I would like the hon. Minister to tell us why in case protection was necessary to this industry, Government were so narrow-minded, and why Government did not have the broader perspective to approach the problem in the correct way and try to have ways and means to see that the interests of the tapioca cultivators, the starch manufacturers, the globule manufacturers, the "pearl" manufacturers etc. will all be safeguarded. It appears that in this matter Government did not have that perspective at all. That is why the Tariff Commission was asked to go into certain questions only, and strangely enough they came out with the recommendation that two persons from Madras should be sent, but none from Travancore-Cochin, because we produce only 1·5 million tons. This sort of attitude should go.

I would also like the hon. Minister to take this House into confidence and tell us what the implications of this discriminative tariff duty will be. He has promised us once, and that promise has been broken, I suppose. I do not

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think he will promise us again, and break it once again. Why should there be a discrimination? What is the purpose? If Government are really interested in the sago industry, if the Commerce Ministry wants that the tapioca globule industry should thrive in the face of competition from imports, when they raise the duty on imports, why should they show a discrimination even at this time, in the year 1954? Times without number, Government have stated that they are going into the details of the operation of the various trade agreements. So, I want the hon. Minister to tell us why this sort of discrimination is necessary even now, when after all, we are getting only about 200 tons or so. As to the duty, I would have preferred if the hon. Commerce Minister had come out and said that instead of this thirty per cent., we would have about one hundred per cent. duty. In any event, you are trying to discourage imports. Why not have the heaviest import duty, so that nobody can import? Here is a matter where there seem to be some interests somewhere which Government really want to protect. Otherwise, they would not come forward with a proposal like this. It may be that it is worth only Rs. 10,000 or Rs. 20,000. But it is a question which involves a principle, and I expect the hon. Minister to tell us as to what is the basis of laying down that this discriminatory duty shall prevail.

Mr. Chairman: I may bring it to the notice of hon. Members that the Business Advisory Committee has allotted a total period of two hours for this Bill. So hon. Members will kindly be as brief as possible.

Shri Achuthan (Crangannur): Five minutes may be given to each Member.

Mr. Chairman: I think that would be better.

Shri Matthen: May I say a few words?

Mr. Chairman: Mr. A. M. Thomas.

Shri A. M. Thomas: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is really a simple Bill and I give my enthusiastic support to it. All the same, I wish to make certain observations concerning the industries sought to be protected especially the tapioca industry with which my State is intimately concerned.

The Tariff Commission went into the question of protection to tapioca globules as long ago as 1950 and it made certain recommendations. There were as many as ten recommendations, and I should submit that the record of the Government in the implementation of these recommendations is not at all satisfactory and is not creditable on the part of the Government.

I have already stated that there are as many as ten recommendations, and among the recommendations, we find recommendation No. 5 which says:

> "Government should give every assistance which the industry may need in securing facilities for the training of skilled workmen in Singapore and Penang".

Then recommendation No. 6 says:

> "If and when the production of tapioca globules is stepped up appreciably and there is a substantial decrease in the cost of production, necessary facilities should be granted to the industry for exporting the surplus left over after meeting fully the domestic demand".

Then the 7th recommendation to which I wish to draw the attention of the House is this:

> "The Governments of Madras and the United States of Travancore-Cochin should take concerted steps to increase the output of tapioca root in their respective States and maintain up-to-date records relating to tapioca production in their States".

Sir, I should submit that these three recommendations which I have brought to the notice of this House have not at all been implemented, and that will be seen from the Tariff Commission's

own report which it has submitted later. In its report, I find that with regard to recommendation No. 5, which I have just now read out, 'The industry has not approached Government for securing facilities for training skilled workmen in Singapore and Penang'. I should submit that this should be characterised as a failure on the part of the Government. It ought to have been the duty of the Government to invite applications from those candidates who want to go to Malaya and Singapore, especially from States like Travancore-Cochin and Madras, and not to have waited for the industry to approach the Government and then send the candidates. With regard to recommendation No. 6, the Tariff Commission records:

> "There has been an increase in production, but no reduction in costs. Indigenous production has been wholly consumed in the country".

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So that it would be clear from that statement that no serious attempt has been made either by the Central Government or the State Governments to step up production of tapioca. Then, with regard to recommendation No. 7, it is stated:

> "No steps have been taken by the Government of Madras to increase the output of tapioca roots in their States. No information has been received from the Government of the State of Travancore-Cochin in this respect Figures relating to the production of tapioca have, however, been furnished to us by both the Governments."

I should submit, Sir, that especially when the problem of food was being handled by the Centre, the Centre ought to have given a little more attention on this side.

Mr. Chairman: It is 5 o'clock now. The House stands adjourned.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the 21st September, 1954.